

# Knowing Your Weaknesses: The (CWE) Initiative

Bob Martin

September 27, 2010



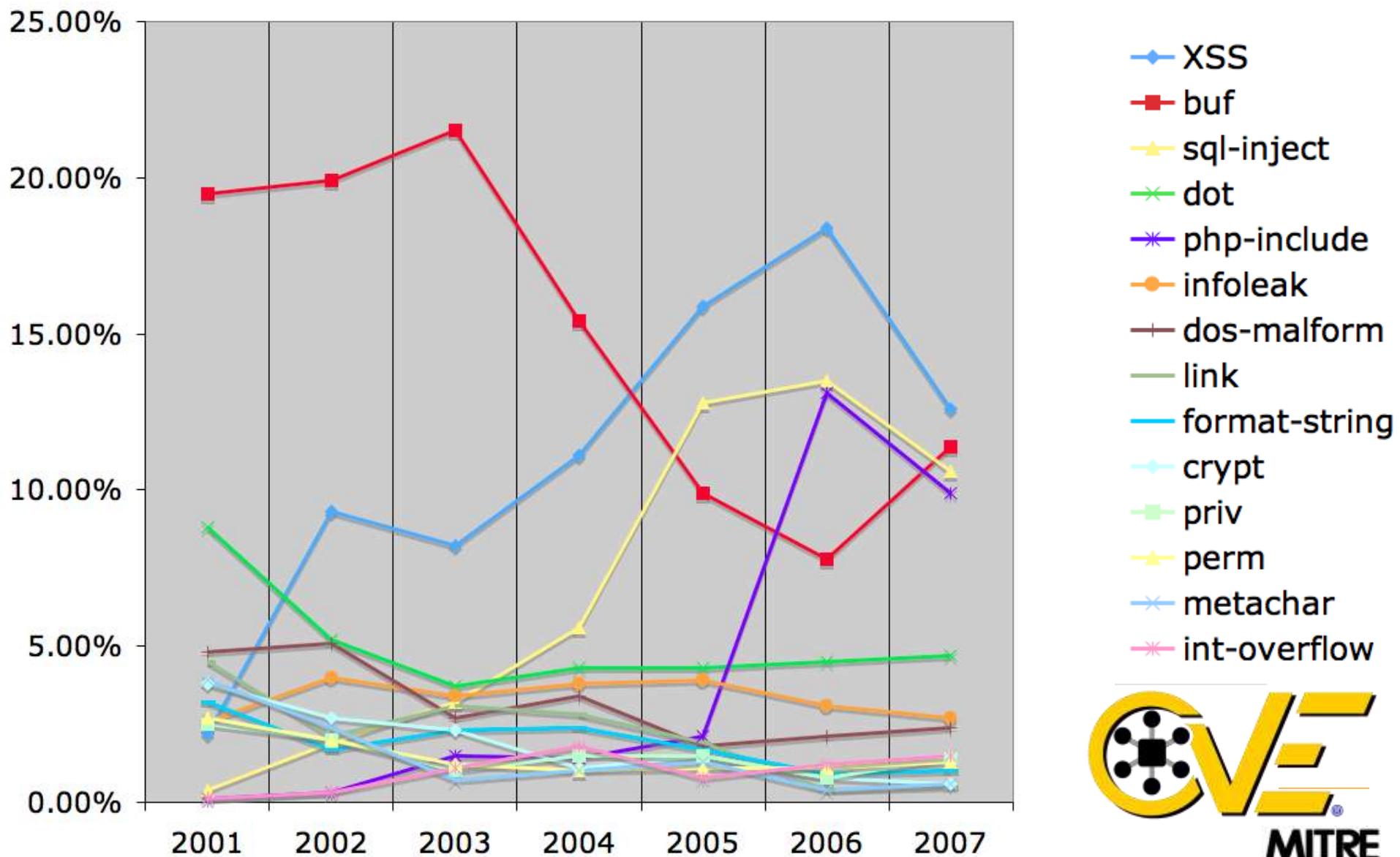
**Homeland  
Security**

If the weaknesses  
in software were as  
easy to spot and  
their impact as  
obvious as...

Missing Authentication for  
Critical Function (CWE-306)  
Using Unpublished Web  
Service APIs (CAPEC-36)



# Vulnerability Type Trends: A Look at the CVE List (2001 - 2007)



# Removing and Preventing the Vulnerabilities Requires More Specific Definitions...CWEs

XSS

buf

sql-inject

dot

php-include

infoleak

dos-malform

link

format-string

crypt

priv

perm

metachar

int-overflow

- Failure to Sanitize Directives in a Web Page (aka 'Cross-site scripting' (XSS)) (79)
- Failure to Sanitize Script-Related HTML Tags in a Web Page (Basic XSS) (80)
  - Failure to Sanitize Directives in an Error Message Web Page (81)
  - Failure to Sanitize Script in Attributes of IMG Tags in a Web Page (82)
  - Failure to Sanitize Script in Attributes in a Web Page (83)
  - Failure to Resolve Encoded URI Schemes in a Web Page (84)
  - Doubled Character XSS Manipulations (85)
  - Invalid Characters in Identifiers (86)
  - Alternate XSS syntax (87)

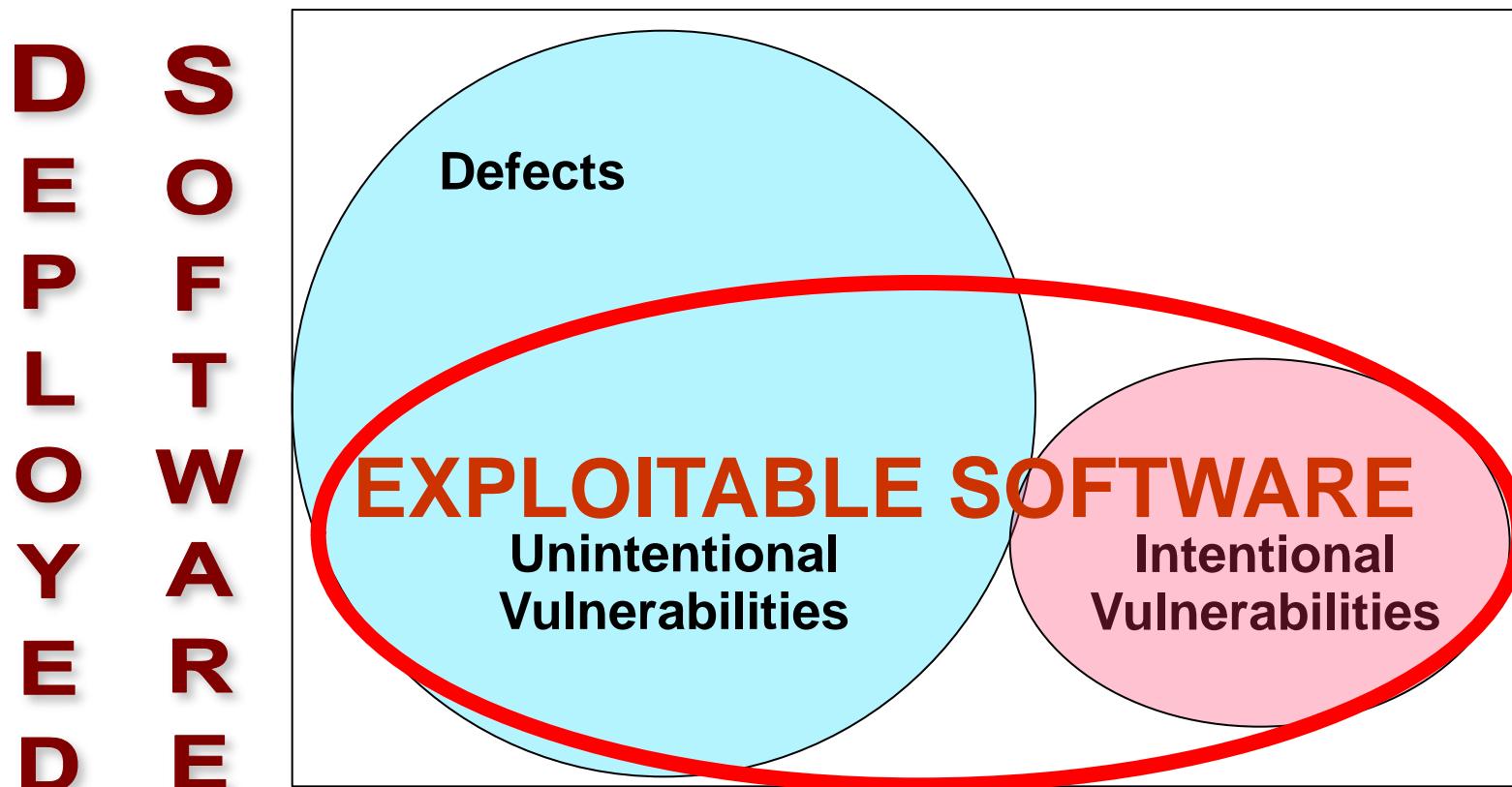
- Failure to Constrain Operations within the Bounds of an Allocated Memory Buffer (119)
- Unbounded Transfer ('Classic Buffer Overflow') (120)
  - Write-what-where Condition (123)
  - Boundary Beginning Violation ('Buffer Underwrite') (124)
  - Out-of-bounds Read (125)
  - Wrap-around Error (128)
  - Unchecked Array Indexing (129)
  - Incorrect Calculation of Buffer Size (131)
  - Miscalculated Null Termination (132)
  - Return of Pointer Value Outside of Expected Range (466)

- Path Traversal (22)
- Relative Path Traversal (23)
    - Path Traversal: '..\filename' (29)
    - Path Traversal: '\dir..\filename' (30)
    - Path Traversal: 'dir..\filename' (31)
    - Path Traversal: '...' (Triple Dot) (32)
    - Path Traversal: '....' (Multiple Dot) (33)
    - Path Traversal: '....//' (34)
    - Path Traversal: '.../...//' (35)
  - Absolute Path Traversal (36)
    - Path Traversal: '/absolute pathname/here' (37)
    - Path Traversal: '\absolute\pathname\here' (38)
    - Path Traversal: 'C:dirname' (39)
    - Path Traversal: '\\UNC\share\name\' (Windows UNC Share) (40)

# Exploitable Software Weaknesses (a.k.a. Vulnerabilities)

Vulnerabilities can be the outcome of non-secure practices and/or malicious intent of someone in the development/support lifecycle.

The exploitation potential of a vulnerability is independent of the “intent” behind how it was introduced.



Intentional vulnerabilities are spyware & malicious logic deliberately imbedded (and might not be considered defects but they can make use of the same weakness patterns as unintentional mistakes)

Note: Chart is not to scale – notional representation -- for discussions

# Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)

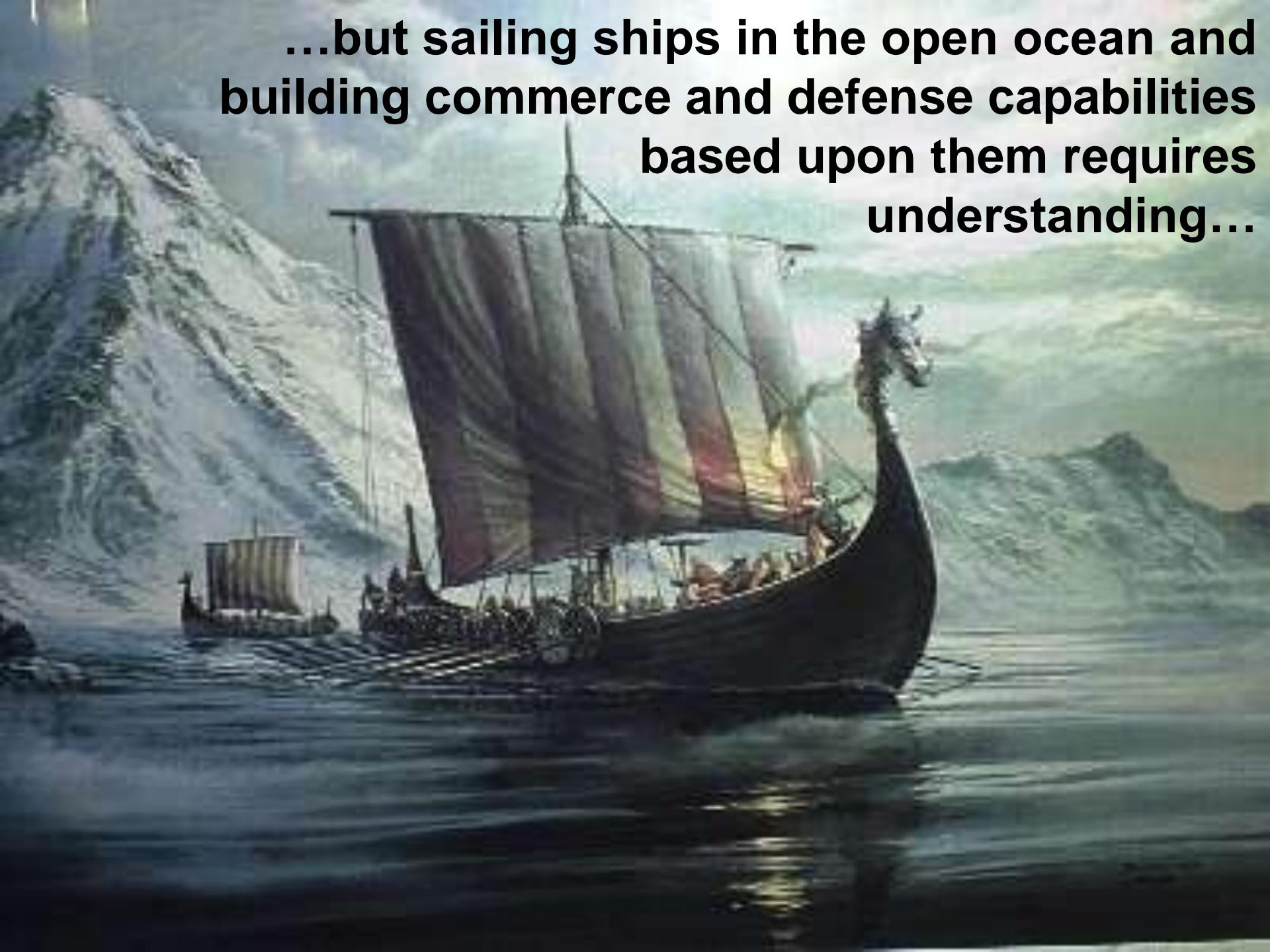
- dictionary of weaknesses
  - weaknesses that can lead to exploitable vulnerabilities (i.e. CVEs)
  - the things we don't want in our code, design, or architecture
  - web site with XML of content, sources of content, and process used
- structured views
  - currently provide hierarchical view into CWE dictionary content
  - will evolve to support alternate views
- open community process
  - to facilitate common terms/concepts/facts and understanding
  - allows for vendors, developers, system owners and acquirers to understand tool capabilities/coverage and priorities
  - utilize community expertise

Foundation for  
other **DHS, NSA,**  
**OSD, NIST, OWASP,**  
**SANS, and OMG**  
**SwA Efforts**



A detailed illustration of a Viking longship sailing on a body of water. The ship is a long wooden vessel with a prominent bow (�) and stern (Ƿ). It has a single large sail decorated with a stylized circular pattern. Numerous crew members are visible along the deck, some holding shields. The ship is moving towards the right of the frame, leaving a wake in the dark blue water. In the background, a large, rugged mountain rises steeply from the water's edge under a clear sky.

Building **Software**  
only require a few  
skills and basic  
understanding...

A painting of a Viking longship sailing on the ocean. The ship is dark-colored with a prominent dragon head at the bow. It has multiple tall masts with large, colorful sails that are partially unfurled. The ship is moving through dark, choppy water. In the background, there are green, rocky hills or mountains under a hazy sky.

**...but sailing ships in the open ocean and  
building commerce and defense capabilities  
based upon them requires  
understanding...**



**Know  
Security  
Weaknesses**

**Know  
Security  
Weaknesses**

**Know  
Security  
Weaknesses**

**Know  
Security  
Weaknesses**

# THE CERT® C SECURE CODING STANDARD

ROBERT C

## References

- [ISO/IEC 9899:1999] Section 5.1.1.3, "Diagnostics"
- [MITRE 07] CWE ID 563, "Unused Variable"; CWE ID 570, "Expression is Always False"; CWE ID 571, "Expression is Always True"
- [Sutter 05] Item 1
- [Seacord 05a] Chapter 8, "Recommended Practices"

Related Sites

US-CERT

Go to "<https://cwe.mitre.org/data/definitions/55.html>"

References

ISO/IEC 9899:1999 Section 5.1.1.3, "Diagnostics"  
 CWE ID 563, "Unused Variable"; CWE ID 570, "Expression is Always False"; CWE ID 571, "Expression is Always True"  
 [Sutter 05] Item 1  
 [Seacord 05a] Chapter 8, "Recommended Practices"

MSC00-CPP. Compile cleanly at high warning levels - CERT Secure Coding Standards

<https://www.securecoding.cert.org/confluence/display/c0lusplus/MSC00-CPP.+Compile+cleanly+at+high+warning+levels>

Software Assurance | Secure Systems | Organizational Security | Coordinated Response | Training

Search

Log In | Sign Up

Software Practice > > MSC00-CPP > MSC00-CPP. Compile cleanly at high warning levels

Clean Secure Coding Practices

**MSC00-CPP. Compile cleanly at high warning levels**

Added by [Justin Pasek](#), last edited by [Justin Pasek](#) on Oct 08, 2008. [View changes](#) | [Show comment](#)

Labels: [#CERT-C](#), [#mcsc00-cpp](#)

Compile code using the highest warning level available for your compiler and eliminate warnings by modifying the code.

According to C99 [ISO/IEC 9899:1999] Section 5.1.1.3:

A conforming implementation shall produce at least one diagnostic message [identified in an implementation-defined manner] if a preprocessing translation unit or translation unit contains a violation of any syntax rule or constraint, even if the behavior is also explicitly specified as [undefined](#) or implementation-defined. Diagnostic messages need not be produced in other circumstances.

Assuming a conforming implementation, eliminating diagnostic messages will eliminate any syntactic or constraint violations.

If suitable source code-checking tools are available, use them regularly.

**Exceptions**

**MSC00-EX1:** Compilers can produce diagnostic messages for correct code. This is permitted by C99 [ISO/IEC 9899:1999], which allows a compiler to produce a diagnostic for any reason. It is usually preferable to rewrite code to eliminate compiler warnings, but if the code is correct, it is sufficient to provide a comment explaining why the warning message does not apply. Some compilers provide ways to suppress warnings, such as suitably formatted comments or pragmas, which can be used sparingly when the programmer understands the implications of the warning but has good reason to use the flagged construct anyway.

Do not simply quiet warnings by adding type casts or other means. Instead, understand the reason for the warning and consider a better approach, such as using matching types and avoiding type casts whenever possible.

**Risk Assessment**

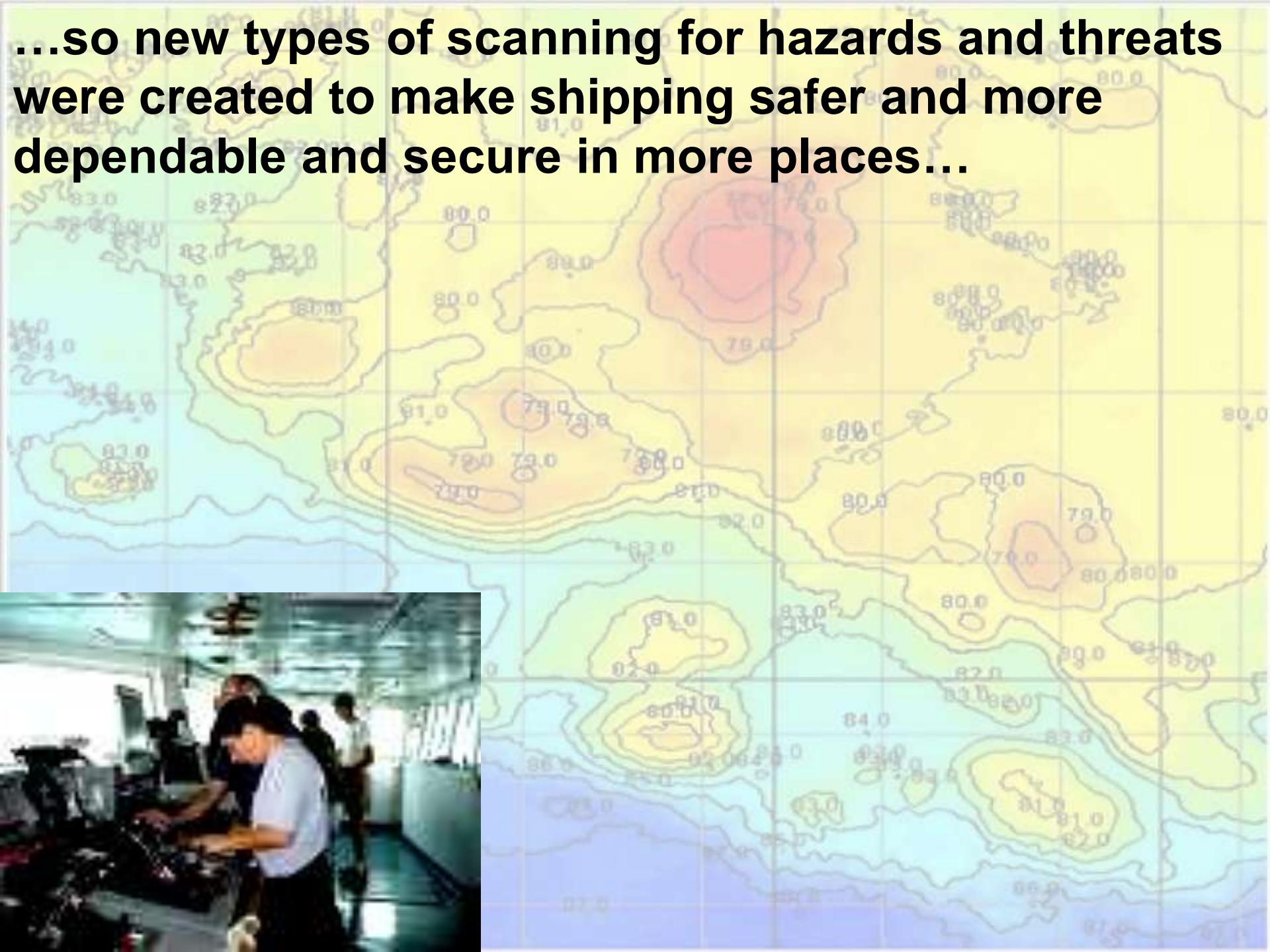
Eliminating violations of syntax rules and other constraints can eliminate various software vulnerabilities that can lead to the execution of arbitrary code with the permissions of the vulnerable process.

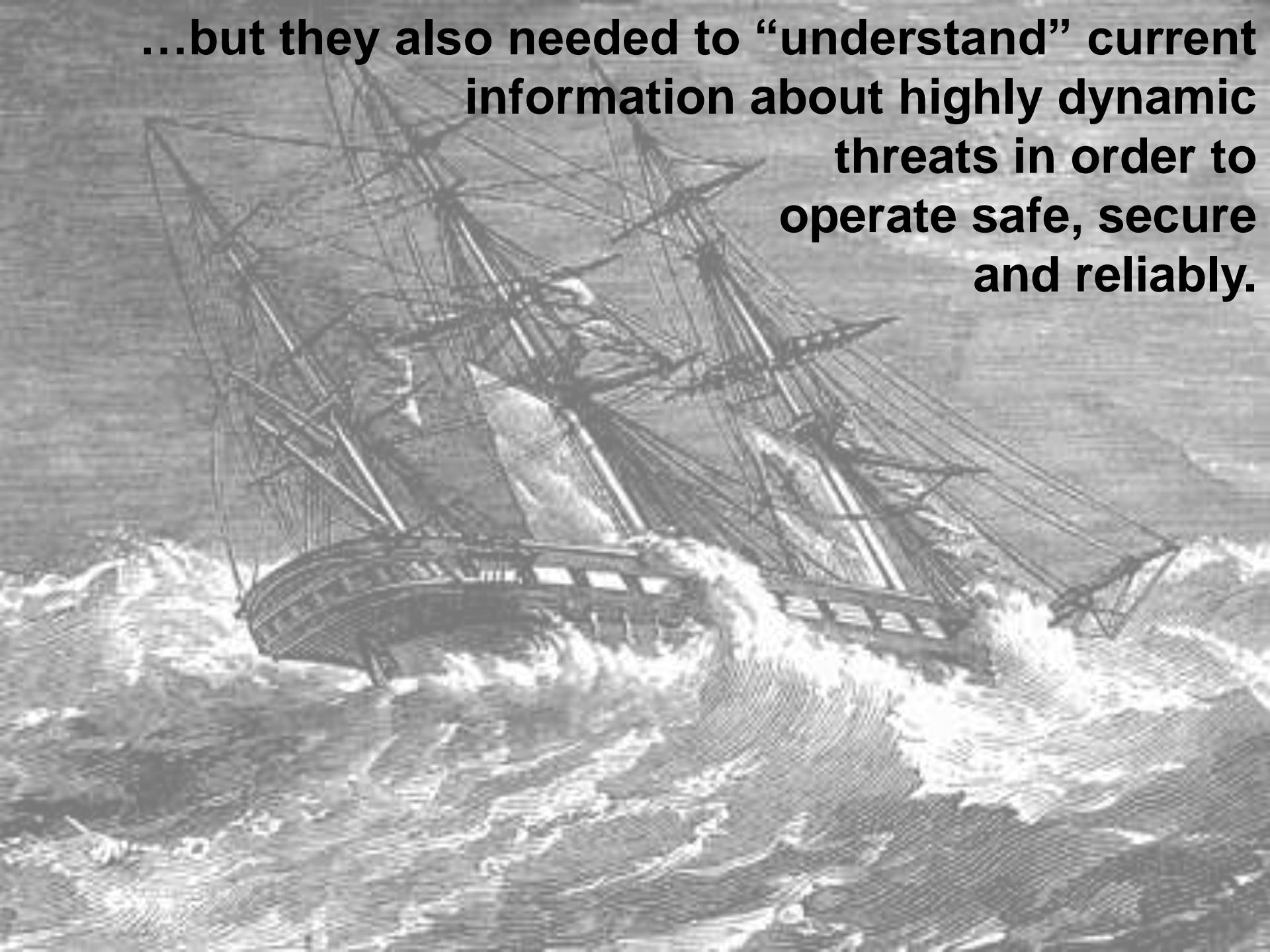




**...some  
threats and  
hazards are  
unpredictable  
and  
dynamic...**

**...so new types of scanning for hazards and threats were created to make shipping safer and more dependable and secure in more places...**



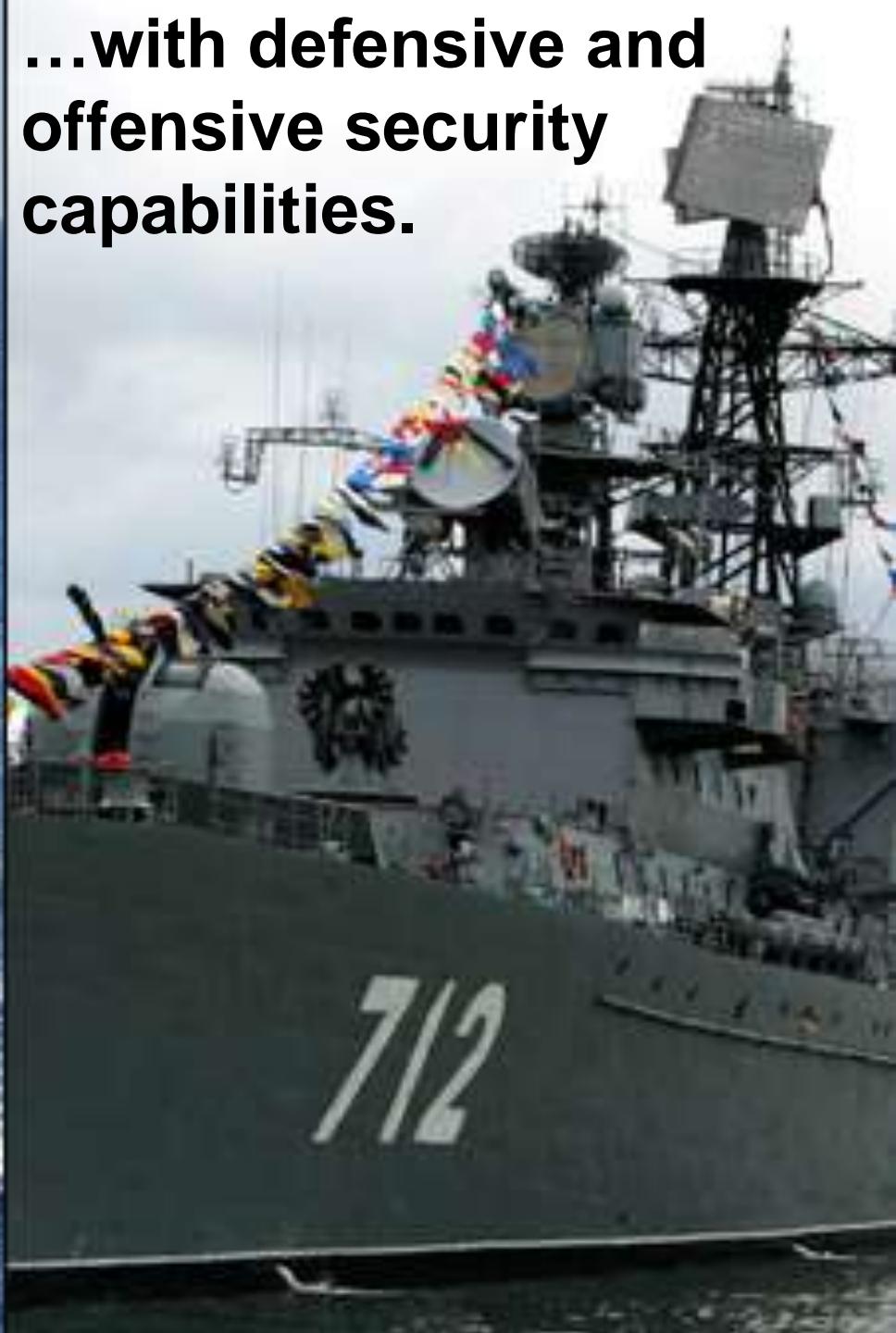


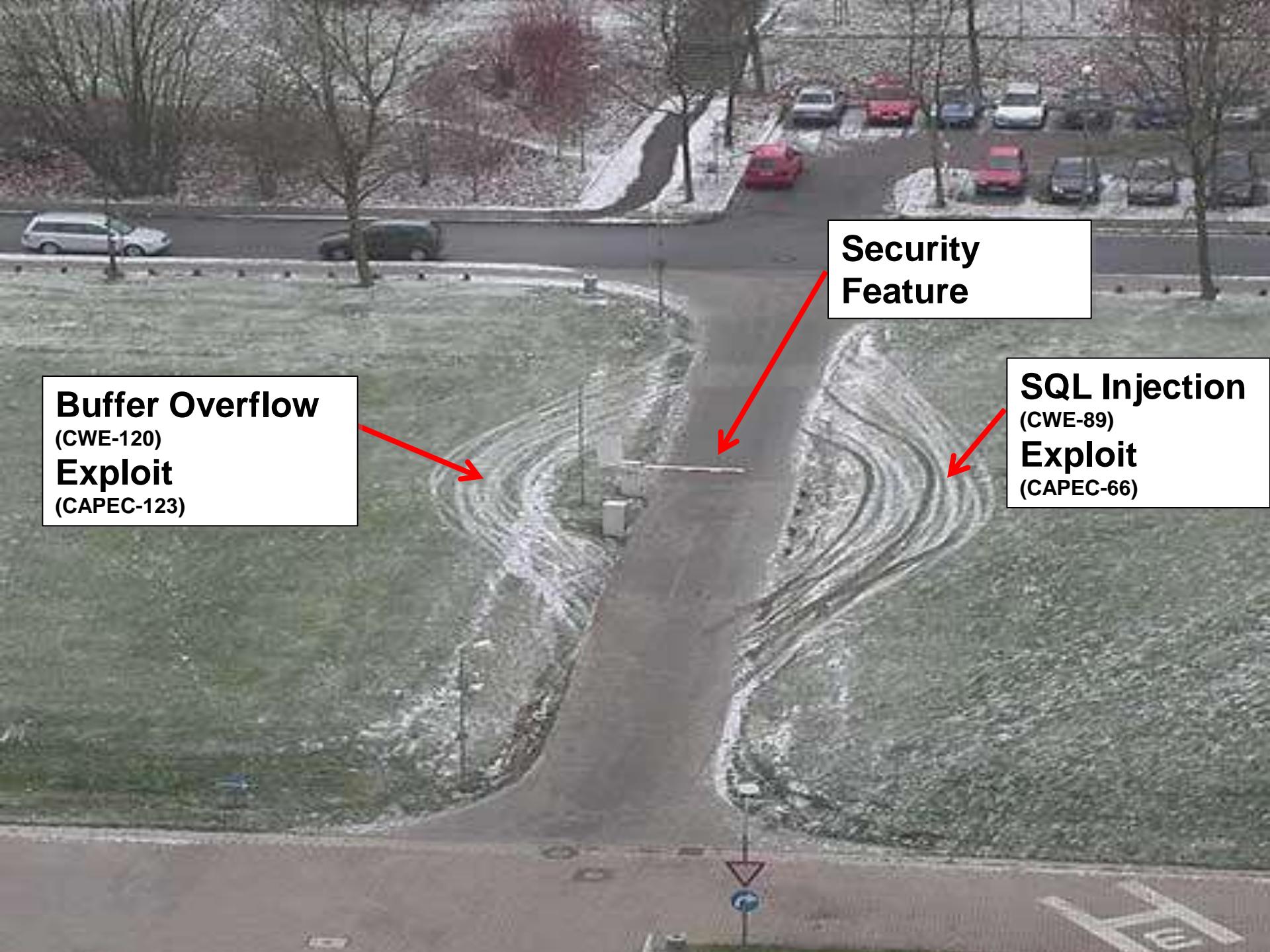
**...but they also needed to “understand” current information about highly dynamic threats in order to operate safe, secure and reliably.**

**But they also needed to deal with the people that were out there trying to locate vulnerabilities and weaknesses in their technologies, processes, or practices...**



**...with defensive and  
offensive security  
capabilities.**





**Buffer Overflow**  
(CWE-120)  
**Exploit**  
(CAPEC-123)

**Security**  
**Feature**

**SQL Injection**  
(CWE-89)  
**Exploit**  
(CAPEC-66)

# CWE Compatibility & Effectiveness Program

(launched Feb 2007)

CWE - CWE Compatibility  
Common Weakness Enumeration  
A community-developed dictionary of common software weaknesses  
Home > Compatibility  
CWE List Full Dictionary View View the CWE List Section Contents: Compatibility  
CWE Compatibility



## Organizations Participating

All organizations participating in the CWE Compatibility and Effectiveness Program are listed below, including those with CWE-Compatible Products and Services and those with Declarations to Be CWE-Compatible.

Products are listed alphabetically by organization name:

cwe.mitre.org/compatible/

### TOTALS

Organizations Participating: 29  
Products & Services: 48

December 29, 2006



Welcome to MSDN Blogs Sign In | Join | Help

HOME EMAIL RSS 2.0 ATOM 1.0

**Recent Posts**

- [MS08-078 and the SDL](#)
- [Announcing CAT.NET CTF and AntIDSS v3 beta](#)
- [SDL videos](#)
- [BlueHat SDL Sessions Wrap-up](#)
- [Secure Coding Secrets?](#)

**Tags**

- [Common Criteria](#) [Crawl](#) [Walk](#) [Run](#)
- [Privacy](#) [SDL](#) [SDL Pro Network](#)
- [Security Assurance](#) [Security Blackhat](#)
- [SDL](#) [threat modeling](#)

**News****Blogroll**

- [BlueHat Security Briefings](#)
- [The Microsoft Security Response Center](#)
- [Michael Howard's Web Log](#)
- [The Data Privacy Imperative](#)
- [Security Vulnerability Research & Defense](#)
- [Visual Studio Code Analysis Blog](#)
- [MSRC Ecosystem Strategy Team](#)

**Books / Papers / Guidance**

- [The Security Development Lifecycle \(Howard and Lipner\)](#)
- [Privacy Guidelines for Developing Software Products and Services](#)
- [Microsoft Security Development Lifecycle \(SDL\) – Portal](#)
- [Microsoft Security Development Lifecycle \(SDL\) – Process Guidance \(Web\)](#)
- [Microsoft Security Development Lifecycle \(SDL\) – Process Guidance \(.doc\)](#)

## MS08-078 and the SDL



Hi, Michael here.

Every bug is an opportunity to learn, and the security update that fixed the data binding bug that affected Internet Explorer users is no exception.

The Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) entry for this bug is [CVE-2008-4844](#).

Before I get started, I want to explain the goals of the SDL and the security work here at Microsoft. The SDL is designed as a multi-layered process to help systematically reduce security vulnerabilities; if one component of the SDL process fails to prevent or catch a bug, then some other component should prevent or catch the bug. The SDL also mandates the use of security defenses whose impact will be reflected in the "mitigations" section of a security bulletin, because we know that no software development process will catch all security bugs. As we have said many times, the goal of the SDL is to "Reduce vulnerabilities, and reduce the severity of what's missed."

In this post, I want to focus on the SDL-required code analysis, code review, fuzzing and compiler and operating system defenses and how they fared.

**Background**

The bug was an invalid pointer dereference in MSHTML.DLL when the code handles data binding. It's important to point out that there is no heap corruption and there is no heap-based buffer overrun.

When data binding is used, IE creates an object which contains an array of data binding objects. In the code in question, when a data binding object is released, the array length is not correctly updated leading to a function call into freed memory.

The vulnerable code looks a little like this (by the way, the real array name is \_aryPXfer, but I figured `ArrayOfObjectsFromIE` is a little more descriptive for people not in the Internet Explorer team.)

```

int MaxIdx = ArrayOfObjectsFromIE.Size() - 1;
for (int i=0; i <= MaxIdx; i++) {
    if (!ArrayOfObjectsFromIE(i))
        continue;
    ArrayOfObjectsFromIE(i) -> TransferFromSource();
    ...
}

```

Here's how the vulnerability manifests itself: if there are two data transfers with the same identifier (so `MaxIdx` is 2), and the first transfer updates the length of the `ArrayOfObjectsFromIE` array when its work was done and releases its data binding object, the loop count would still be whatever `MaxIdx` was at the start of the loop, 2.

This is a time-of-check-time-of-use (TOCTOU) bug that led to code calling into a freed memory block. The Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) classification for this vulnerability is [CWE-367](#).

The fix was to check the maximum iteration count on each loop iteration rather than once before the loop starts. This is the same fix for a TOCTOU bug in the `GetFileInformationByHandle` function in the `kernel32.dll`.

a time-of-check-time-of-use (TOCTOU) bug that led to code calling into a freed memory block. The Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) classification for this vulnerability is [CWE-367](#).

# OWASP Top Ten 2007 & 2010 use CWE refs

OWASP TOP 10



THE TEN MOST CRITICAL  
APPLICATION SECURITY VULNERABILITIES

2007 UPDATE

© 2002-2007 OWASP Foundation

This document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike license.

Our methodology for the Top 10 2007 was simple: take the [MITRE Vulnerability Trends for 2006](#), and distill the Top 10 *web application security* issues. The ranked results are as follows:

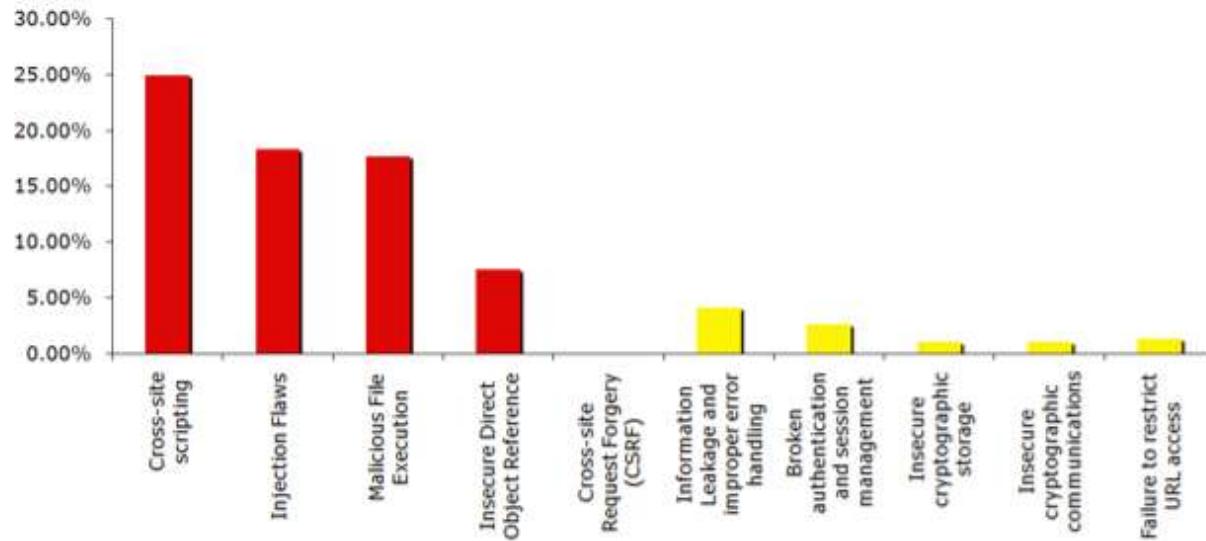


Figure 2: MITRE data on Top 10 web application vulnerabilities for 2006



OWASP

The Open Web Application Security Project

OWASP Top 10 - 2010

The Ten Most Critical Web Application Security Risks



Creative Commons (CC) Attribution Share-Alike  
Free version at <http://www.owasp.org>

# Some High-Level CWEs Are Now Part of the NVD CVE Information

automation or vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance (e.g. FISMA).

**Resource Status**

NVD contains:  
26736 CVE Vulnerabilities  
114 Checklists  
91 US-CERT Alerts  
1997 US-CERT Vuln Notes  
2966 OVAL Queries  
12410 Vulnerable Products

Last updated: 09/26/07  
CVE Publication rate: 16 vulnerabilities / day

**Email List**

Select the email list(s) you wish to join, enter your e-mail address and press "Add" to receive NVD announcements or SCAP information.

NVD Announcements  
 SCAP Announcements  
 SCAP Discussion List  
 XCCDF Discussion List

Add

**Workload Index**

Vulnerability Workload Index: 9.06

**About Us**

NVD is a product of the [NIST Computer Security Division](#) and is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security's [National Cyber Security Division](#). It supports the [Common Platform Enumeration](#).

## Overview

SQL injection vulnerability in mods/banners/navlist.php in Clansphere 2007.4 allows remote attackers to execute arbitrary SQL commands via the cat\_id parameter to index.php in a banners action.

## Impact

**CVSS Severity (version 2.0):**  
CVSS v2 Base score: 7.5 (High) (AV:N/AC:L/Au:N/C:P/I:P/A:P) (legend)  
Impact Subscore: 6.4  
Exploitability Subscore: 10.0

**Access Vector:** Network exploitable  
**Access Complexity:** Low  
**Authentication:** Not required to exploit  
**Impact Type:** Provides unauthorized access, Allows partial confidentiality, integrity, and availability violation , Allows unauthorized disclosure of information , Allows disruption of service

## References to Advisories, Solutions, and Tools

**External Source:** BID (disclaimer)  
Name: 25770  
Hyperlink: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/25770>

**External Source:** MILWORM (disclaimer)  
Name: 4443  
Hyperlink: <http://www.milw0rm.com/exploits/4443>

## Vulnerable software and versions

**Configuration 1**  
– Clansphere, Clansphere, 2007.4

## Technical Details

**Vulnerability Type (View All)**  
SQL Injection (CWE-89)

**CVE Standard Vulnerability Entry:**  
<http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2007-5061>

## NVD XML feeds also include CWE

**Vulnerability Type (View All)**  
SQL Injection (CWE-89)

**CWE** Common Weakness Enumeration  
A Community-Developed Dictionary of Software Weakness Types

Home in CWE List | CWE-89 Individual Dictionary Definition (Draft 9) | View the CERT List | Search (0)

**CWE List**  
Full Dictionary View  
Classification Tree  
Reports

**Above**  
Recent  
Popular  
Documents

**Community**  
Related Advisories  
Unresolved List  
Research

**News**  
Calendar  
Free Newsletter

**Compatibility**  
Program  
Requirements  
Implementation  
How to Contribute  
Contact Us  
Search the Site

**CWE-89 Individual Dictionary Definition (Draft 9)**

**Failure to Sanitize Data into SQL Queries (aka 'SQL Injection')** (Status: incomplete)

**Weakness ID:** 89 (Weakness ID) | **Status:** incomplete

**Description**

The application fails to adequately filter SQL syntax from user-controllable input. This can lead to such input being interpreted as SQL rather than ordinary user data and be executed as part of a dynamically generated SQL query. This is a specific form of an injection problem, one that explicitly affects SQL databases. In which SQL commands are injected into data-plane input in order to effect the execution of dynamically generated SQL statements.

**Likelihood of Exploit:** Very High

**Common Consequences:**

- Confidentiality: Since SQL databases generally hold sensitive data, loss of confidentiality is a frequent problem with SQL injection vulnerabilities.
- Authorization: If poor SQL commands are used to check user names and passwords, it may be possible to connect to a system as another user with no previous knowledge of the password.
- Information Disclosure: If authentication information is held in a SQL database, it may be possible to change this information through the successful exploitation of a SQL injection vulnerability.
- Integrity: Just as it may be possible to read sensitive information, it is also possible to make changes or even delete this information with a SQL injection attack.

**Potential Mitigations:**

- Requirements specification: A non-SQL style database which is not subject to this flaw may be chosen.
- Design: Follow the principle of least privilege when creating user accounts in a SQL database. Users should only have the minimum privileges necessary to use their account. If the requirements of the system indicate that a user can read and modify their own data, then limit their privileges so they cannot read/write others' data.
- Design: Duplicate any filtering done on the client-side on the server side.
- Implementation: Implement SQL strings using prepared statements that bind variables. Prepared statements that do not bind variables can be vulnerable to attack.

**Section Contents**

- CWE List**
- Full Dictionary View
- Classification Tree
- Reports

**Search Results of CWE-89**

**Key**

- Weakness**: Baseline
- Variant**: Class
- Child**: Composite
- Category**: View
- Deprecated**

[SRD Home](#) [View / Download](#) [Search / Download](#) [More Downloads](#) [Submit](#) [Test](#)

## Welcome to the NIST SAMATE Reference Dataset Project

The purpose of the [SAMATE](#) Reference Dataset ([SRD](#)) is to provide users, researchers, set of known security flaws. This will allow end users to evaluate tools and tool designs, source code, binaries, etc., i.e. from all the phases of the software life cycle (written to test or generated), and "academic" (from students) test cases. This dataset includes known bugs and vulnerabilities. The dataset intends to encompass a wide variety of compilers. The dataset is anticipated to become a large-scale effort, gathering test cases about the SRD, including goals, structure, test suite selection, etc.

### Browse, download, and search the SRD

Anyone can browse or search test cases and download selected cases. Please [click here](#) for selected or all test cases. To find specific test cases, please [click here](#).

### How to submit test cases



Draft Special Publication 500-268

## Source Code Security Analysis Tool Functional Specification Version 1.0

Information Technology Laboratory (ITL), Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing Division

29 January, 2007

Michael Kass  
Michael Koo

## NIST Special Publications:

SP800-36	CVE
SP800-40	CVE, OVAL
SP800-42	CVE
SP800-44	CVE
SP800-51	CVE
SP800-53a	CVE, OVAL, CWE
SP800-61	CVE, OVAL
SP800-70	CVE, OVAL, CCE, CPE, XCCDF, CVSS
SP800-82	CVE
SP800-86	CVE
SP800-94	CVE
SP800-115	CVE, CCE, CVSS, CWE
SP800-117	CVE, OVAL, CCE, CPE, XCCDF, CVSS
SP800-126	CVE, OVAL, CCE, CPE, XCCDF, CVSS



## NIST Interagency Reports:

NISTIR-7007	CVE
NISTIR-7275	CVE, OVAL, CCE, CPE, XCCDF, CVSS
NISTIR-7435	CVE, CVSS, CWE
NISTIR-7511	CVE, OVAL, CCE, CPE, XCCDF, CVSS
NISTIR-7517	CVE
NISTIR-7581	CVE
NISTIR-7628	CVE, CWE

FD  
SCAP™  
EMAP  
SwAAP

10001  
011111  
10001  
11110  
10001

## Manually review code after security education

Manual code review, especially review of high-risk code, such as code that faces the Internet or parses data from the Internet, is critical, but only if the people performing the code review know what to look for and how to fix any code vulnerabilities they find. The best way to help understand classes of security bugs and remedies is education, which should minimally include the following areas:

- C and C++ vulnerabilities and remedies, most notably buffer overruns and integer arithmetic issues.
- Web-specific vulnerabilities and remedies, such as cross-site scripting (XSS).
- Database-specific vulnerabilities and remedies, such as SQL injection.
- Common cryptographic errors and remedies.

Many vulnerabilities are programming language (C, C++ etc) or domain-specific (web, database) and others can be categorized by vulnerability type, such as injection (XSS and SQL Injection) or cryptographic (poor random number generation and weak secret storage) so specific training in these areas is advised.

### Resources

- A Process for Performing Security Code Reviews, Michael Howard, IEEE Security & Privacy July/August 2006.
- .NET Framework Security – Code Review: <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms246427.aspx>
- Common Weakness Enumeration, MITRE: <http://cwe.mitre.org/>
- Security Code Reviews: [http://www.cobssecurity.org/Wiki/view.aspx?Security\\_Code\\_Reviews](http://www.cobssecurity.org/Wiki/view.aspx?Security_Code_Reviews)
- Security Code Review – Use Visual Studio Bookmarks To Capture Security Findings: <http://slags.msdn.com/wik/archive/2009/01/24/security-code-review-use-visual-studio-bookmarks-to-capture-security-findings.aspx>
- Security Code Review Guidelines, Adam Shostack: <http://www.verber.com/mark/csa/Security/code-review.html>
- OWASP Top Ten: [http://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP\\_Top\\_Ten\\_Project](http://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Top_Ten_Project)

CWE  
CAPEC

# Industry Uptake

10001  
011111  
10001  
11110  
10001

## Testing

Testing activities validate the secure implementation of a product, which reduces the likelihood of security bugs being released and discovered by customers or malicious users. The majority of SAFECode members have adopted the full software security testing practices in their software development lifecycle. This is not to “test in security,” but rather to validate the robustness and security of the software products prior to making the product available to customers. Testing methods do find security bugs, especially for products that may not undergo critical secure development process changes.

## Fuzz testing

Fuzz testing is a reliability and security testing technique that relies on but intentionally malformed data and then having the software under test consume the malformed data to see how it responds. The science of fuzz testing is somewhat new but it is maturing rapidly. There is a small market for fuzz testing tools today, but in many cases software developers must build bespoke fuzz testers to suit specialized file and network data formats. Fuzz testing is an effective testing technique because it uncovers weaknesses in data handling code.

### Resources

- Fuzz Testing of Application Reliability, University of Wisconsin: <http://pages.cs.wisc.edu/~bart/fuzz/fuzz.html>
- Automated Whitebox Fuzz Testing, Michael Levin, Patrick Godefroid and Dave Mihai, Microsoft Research: <http://research.microsoft.com/pubs/tr/TR-2007-58.pdf>
- DMNewsletter Spring 2007 “Look out! It’s the fuzz!” Matt Warrick: [http://iac.dtic.mil/wiac/download/ys12\\_no1.pdf](http://iac.dtic.mil/wiac/download/ys12_no1.pdf)
- Fuzzing: Brute Force Vulnerability Discovery, Sutton, Greene & Amin, Addison-Wesley.
- Open Source Security Testing Methodology Manual, ISECOM: <http://osstmm.org/>
- Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification, MITRE: <http://capec.mitre.org/>

10001  
011111  
10001  
11110  
10001

**SAFECode**  
Driving Security and Integrity



## Fundamental Practices for Secure Software Development

A Guide to the Most Effective Secure Development Practices in Use Today

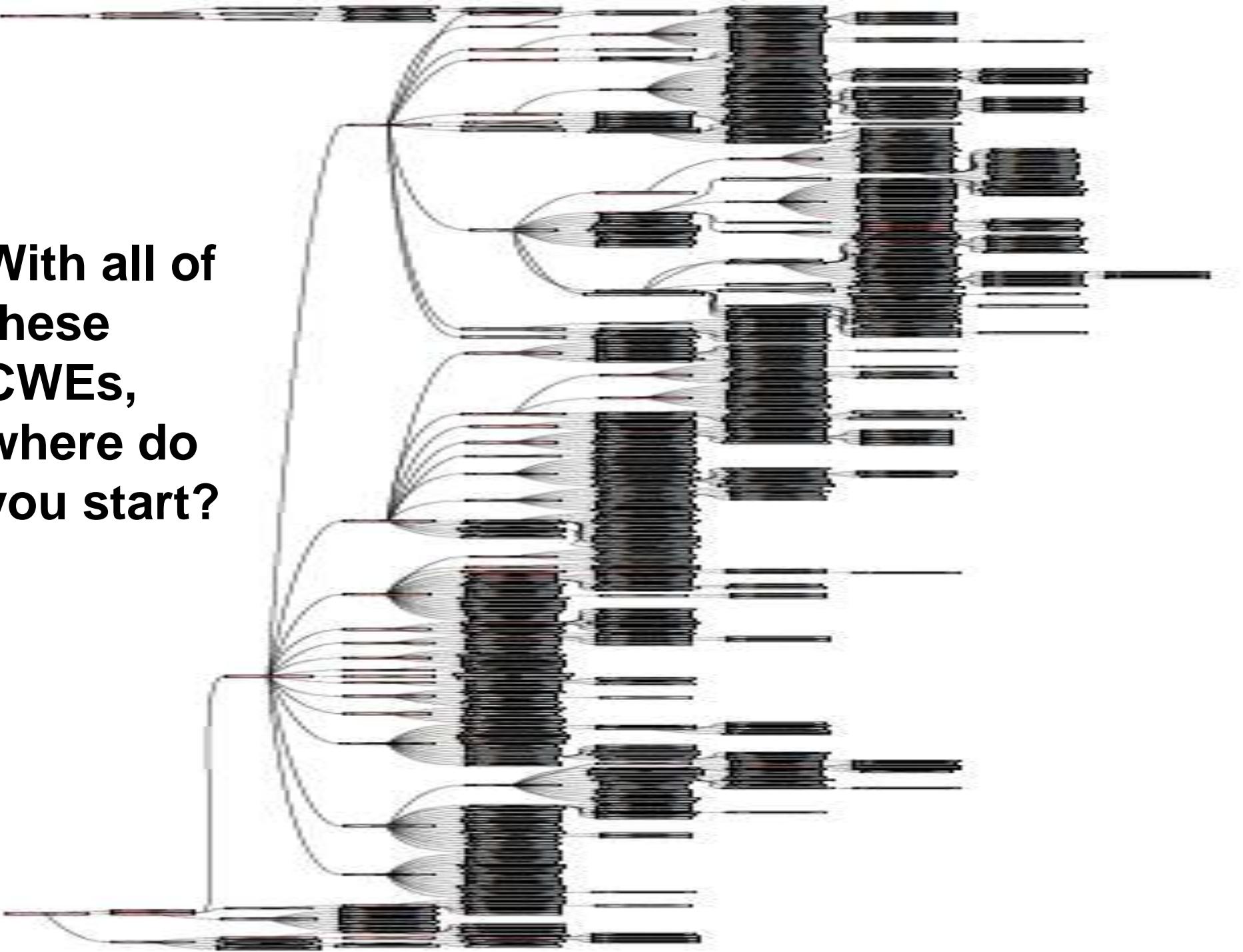
OCTOBER 8, 2008

LEAD WRITER Michael Howard, Microsoft Corp.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Steve Lipner, Microsoft Corp.  
Brad Minns, Juniper Networks, Inc.  
Hank Parekh, EMC Corporation  
Matt Cole, EMC Corporation  
Dave Ruddy, EMC Corporation  
Danny Denison, Nokia  
Randy Saks, EMC Corporation  
Carrie Goldschmidt, Symantec Corp.  
Wesley Higgin, Nokia  
Aarti Vimal-Sripal, Nokia

**With all of  
these  
CWEs,  
where do  
you start?**



# 20010 CWE/SANS Top 25 Programming Errors (released 16 Feb 2010)

cwe.mitre.org/top25/

- Sponsored by:
  - National Cyber Security Division (DHS)
- List was selected by a group of security experts from 34 organizations including:
  - Academia: Purdue, Northern Kentucky University
  - Government: CERT, NSA, DHS
  - Software Vendors: Microsoft, Oracle, Red Hat, Apple, Juniper, McAfee, Symantec, Sun, RSA (of EMC)
  - Security Vendors: Veracode, Fortify, Cigital, Mandiant, Cigital, Secunia, Breach, SAIC, Aspect, WhiteHat
  - Security Groups: OWASP, WASC

The screenshot shows the homepage of the SANS Top 25 Most Dangerous Programming Errors site. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like 'HOME', 'SANS', 'pick a course', 'who certifies?', 'PAST TOP 25', 'TRAINING', 'certification', 'resources', 'Vendor', 'Press', 'Training Center', 'College', 'Developers', and 'About'. Below the navigation is a banner for 'CWE/SANS TOP 25 Most Dangerous Programming Errors' with the year '2010' and a link to 'View PDF'. To the right of the banner is a sidebar with sections for 'What Errors Are Included in the Top 25 Programming Errors?' (Version 3.0 - released February 16, 2010), 'The Top 25 Programming Errors are listed below in three categories:', and 'Click on the headline in any of the listings for the MORE link and you will be directed to the relevant spot in the NIST CWE site where you will find the following:'. The main content area lists the top 25 errors under three categories: Insecure Interaction Between Components (8 errors), Inadequate Protection of Critical Data (10 errors), and Programming Error Categories (7 errors). At the bottom, there's a section for 'Programming Error Category: Insecure Interaction Between Components' with two items: [1] CWE-79: Failure to Preserve Web Page Structure ('Cross-site Scripting') and [2] CWE-89: Failure to Preserve SQL Query Structure (aka 'SQL Injection').

Robert C. Seacord CERT

Pascal Meunier CERIAS, Purdue University

Matt Bishop University of California, Davis

Kenneth van Wyk

Masato Terada

Sean Barnum

Mahesh Saptharshi

Cassio Goldschmidt

Adam Hahn

Jeff Williams

Carsten Eiram

Josh Drake

Chuck Willis

Michael Howard

Bruce Lowenthal

Mark J. Cox

Jacob West

Djenana Campara

James Walden

Frank Kim

Chris Eng

Chris Wysopal

Ryan Barnett Breach

Antonio Fontes New Acc

Mady Greenleaf II Marion

<http://cwe.mitre.org/top25/contributors.html>

**CWE - Top 25 Credited Contributors**

**2010**

**CWE Common Weakness Enumeration**  
A Community-Developed Dictionary of Software Weakness Types

**Section Contents**  
**CWE/SANS Top 25**  
Contributors  
Supporting Quotes  
Milestone Milestones  
Focus Profiles  
On the Cusp  
Documents & Podcasts  
Training Materials  
Top 25 FAQ  
Top 25 Process  
Change Log  
SANS News Release

**Section Archives**  
**2009 CWE/SANS Top 25**  
Supporting Quotes  
Contributors  
On The Cusp  
Change Log

**2009**



CWE is a Software Assurance Strategic Initiative sponsored by the National Cyber Security Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.  
This Web site is Maintained by The MITRE Corporation.  
Copyright 2010, The MITRE Corporation. CWE and the CWE logo are trademarks of The MITRE Corporation.  
Contact [cwe@cse.mitre.org](mailto:cwe@cse.mitre.org) for more information.

Privacy Policy  
Terms of Use  
Contact Us



## Insecure Interaction Between Components

These weaknesses are related to insecure ways in which data is sent and received between separate components, modules, programs, processes, threads, or systems.

For each weakness, its ranking in the general list is provided in square brackets.

Rank	CWE ID	Name
[1]	<a href="#">CWE-79</a>	Failure to Preserve Web Page Structure ('Cross-site Scripting')
[2]	<a href="#">CWE-89</a>	Improper Sanitization of Special Elements used in an SQL Command ('SQL Injection')
[4]	<a href="#">CWE-352</a>	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
[8]	<a href="#">CWE-434</a>	Unrestricted Upload of File with Dangerous Type
[9]	<a href="#">CWE-78</a>	Improper Sanitization of Special Elements used in an OS Command ('OS Command Injection')
[17]	<a href="#">CWE-209</a>	Information Exposure Through an Error Message
[23]	<a href="#">CWE-601</a>	URL Redirection to Untrusted Site ('Open Redirect')
[25]	<a href="#">CWE-362</a>	Race Condition

## Risky Resource Management

The weaknesses in this category are related to ways in which software does not properly manage the creation, usage, transfer, or destruction of important system resources.

Rank	CWE ID	Name
[3]	<a href="#">CWE-120</a>	Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input ('Classic Buffer Overflow')
[7]	<a href="#">CWE-22</a>	Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory ('Path Traversal')
[12]	<a href="#">CWE-805</a>	Buffer Access with Incorrect Length Value
[13]	<a href="#">CWE-754</a>	Improper Check for Unusual or Exceptional Conditions
[14]	<a href="#">CWE-98</a>	Improper Control of Filename for Include/Require Statement in PHP Program ('PHP File Inclusion')
[15]	<a href="#">CWE-129</a>	Improper Validation of Array Index
[16]	<a href="#">CWE-190</a>	Integer Overflow or Wraparound
[18]	<a href="#">CWE-131</a>	Incorrect Calculation of Buffer Size
[20]	<a href="#">CWE-494</a>	Download of Code Without Integrity Check
[22]	<a href="#">CWE-770</a>	Allocation of Resources Without Limits or Throttling

## Porous Defenses

The weaknesses in this category are related to defensive techniques that are often misused, abused, or just plain ignored.

Rank	CWE ID	Name
[5]	<a href="#">CWE-285</a>	Improper Access Control (Authorization)
[6]	<a href="#">CWE-807</a>	Reliance on Untrusted Inputs in a Security Decision
[10]	<a href="#">CWE-311</a>	Missing Encryption of Sensitive Data
[11]	<a href="#">CWE-798</a>	Use of Hard-coded Credentials
[19]	<a href="#">CWE-306</a>	Missing Authentication for Critical Function
[21]	<a href="#">CWE-732</a>	Incorrect Permission Assignment for Critical Resource
[24]	<a href="#">CWE-327</a>	Use of a Broken or Risky Cryptographic Algorithm

**PLOVER**  
(CWE  
draft 1)

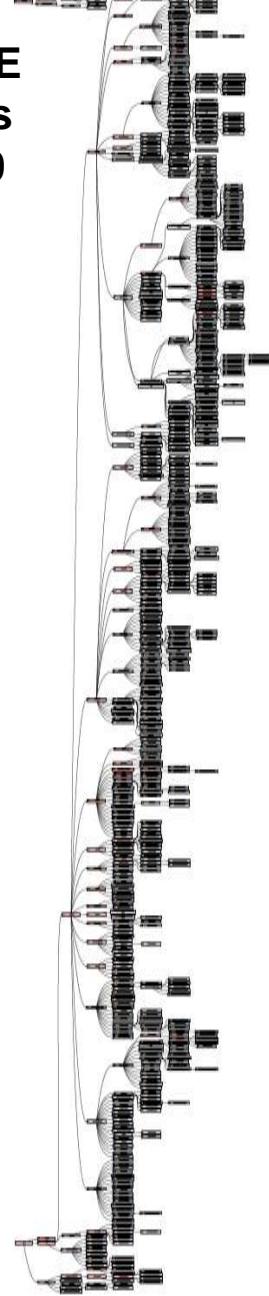
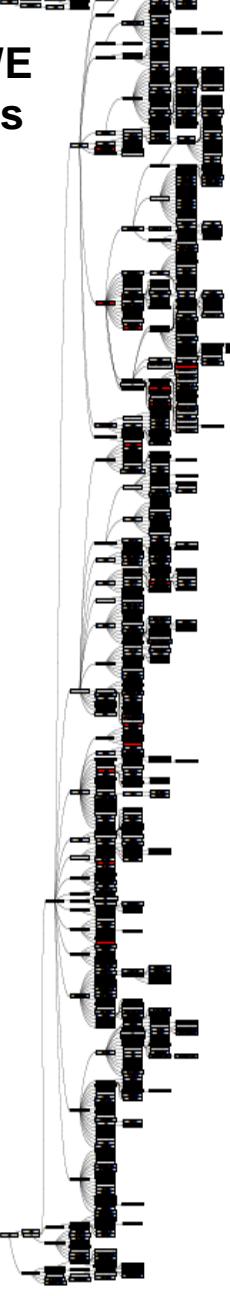
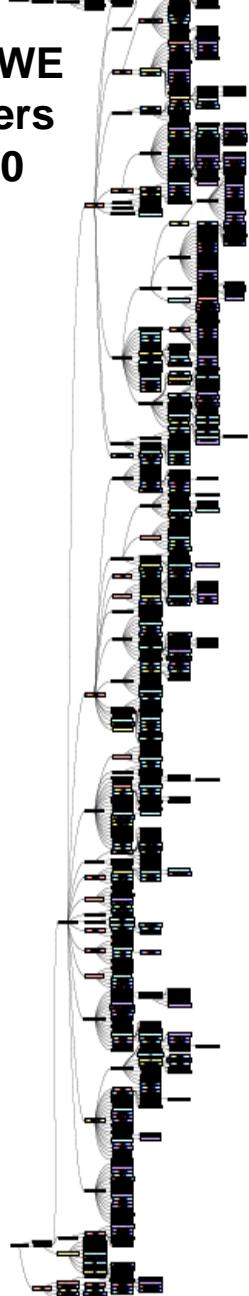
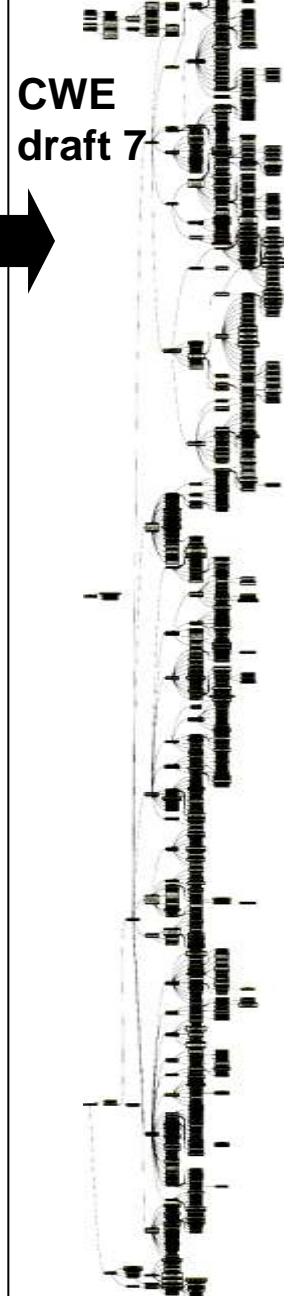
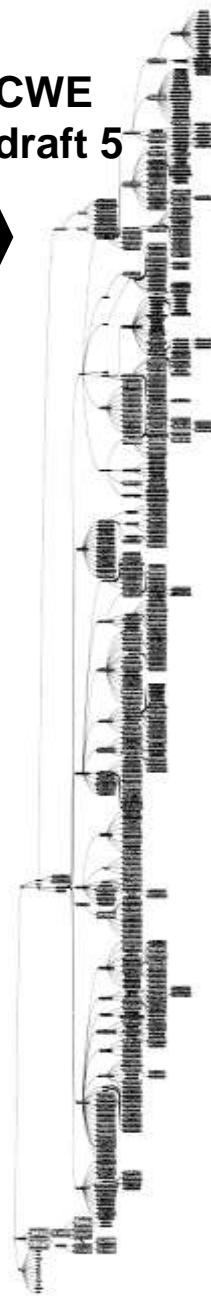
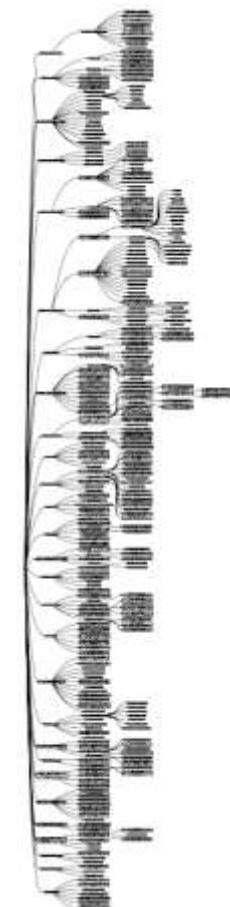
CWE  
draft 5

CWE  
draft 7

CWE  
Vers  
1.0

CWE  
Vers  
1.5

CWE  
Vers  
1.10



2005

300 nodes

2006

599 nodes

2007

634 nodes

2008

673 nodes

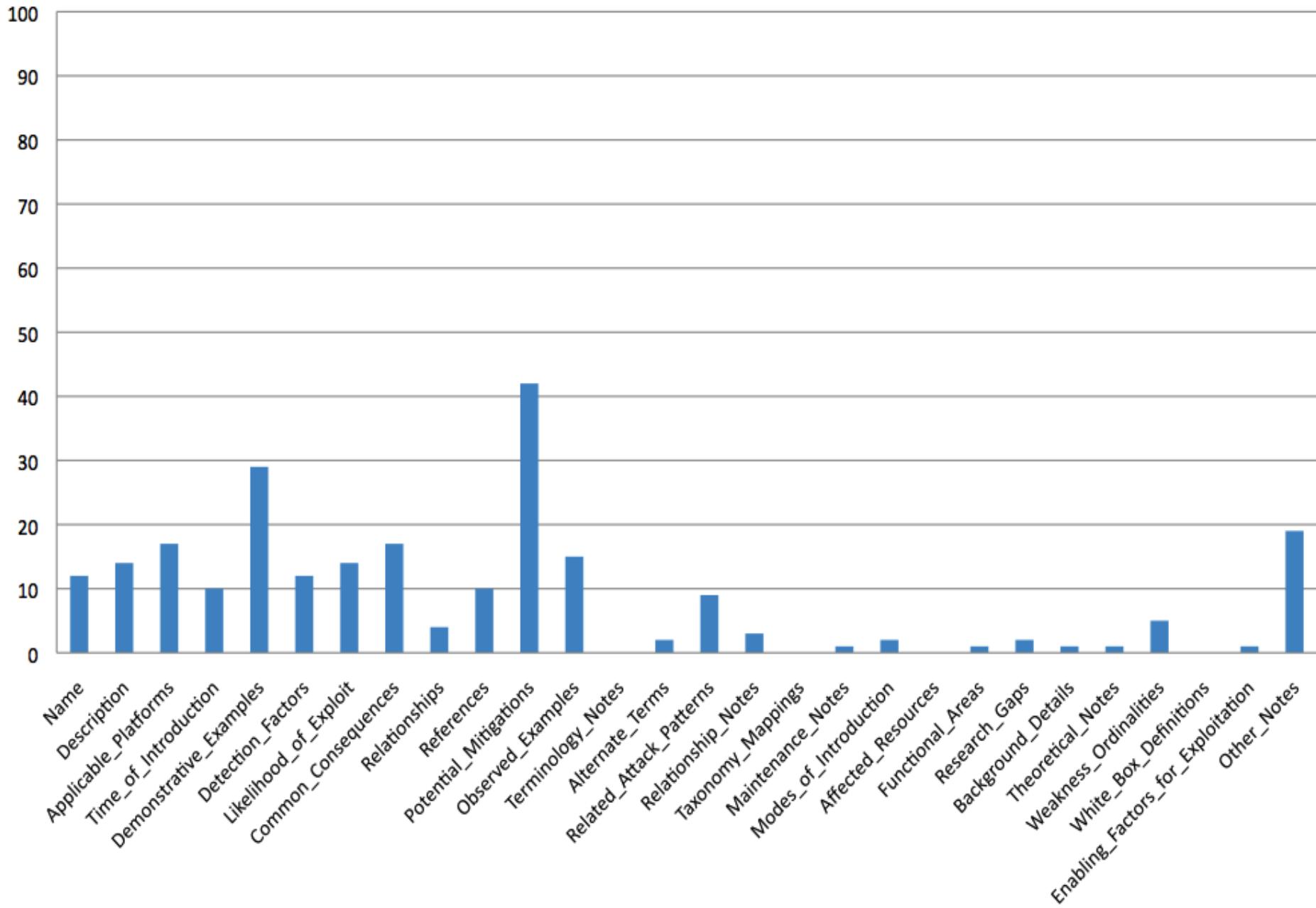
2009

799 nodes

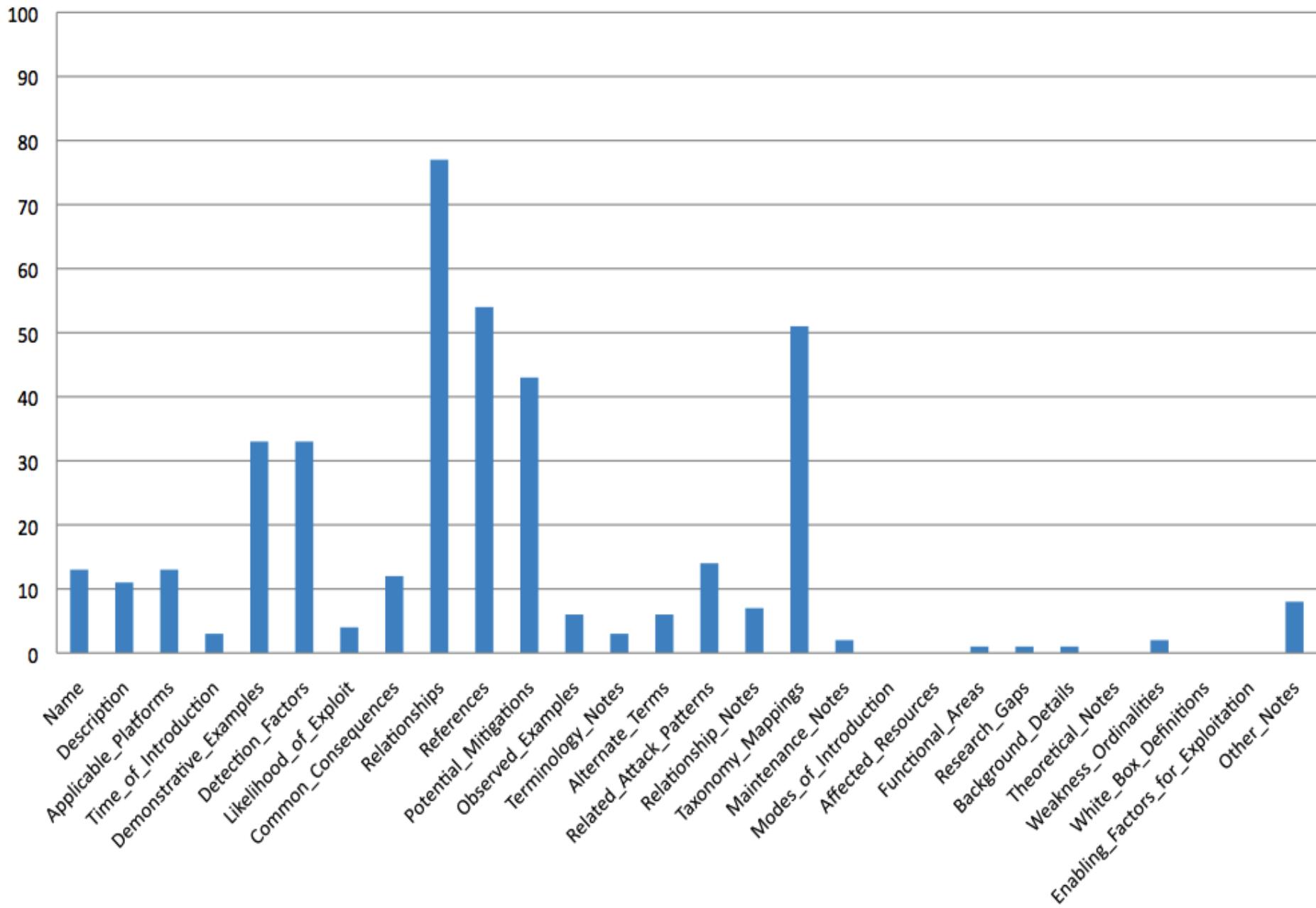
Sep 2010

828 nodes

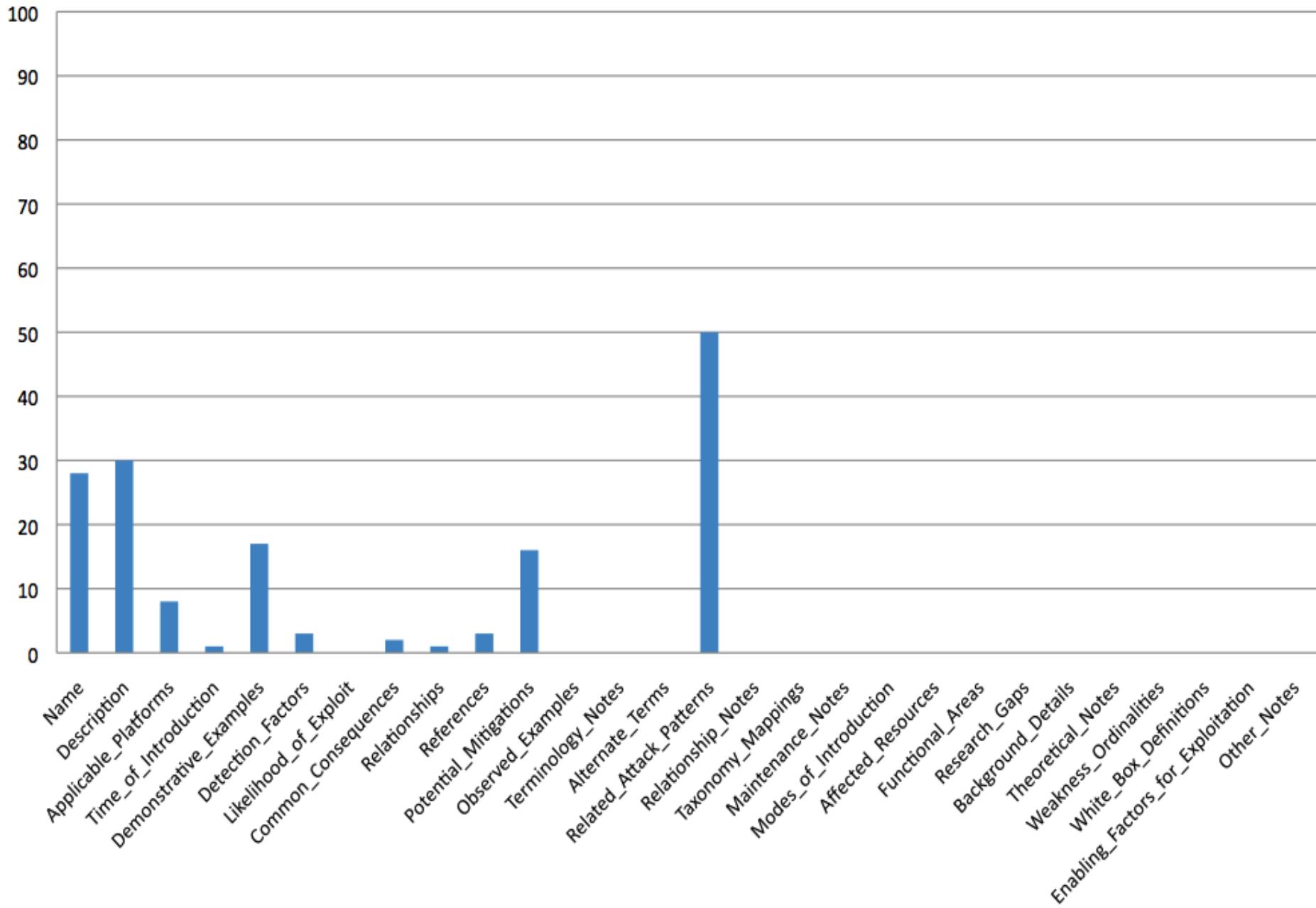
## Field Changes - 1.6 to 1.7 (28 December 2009)



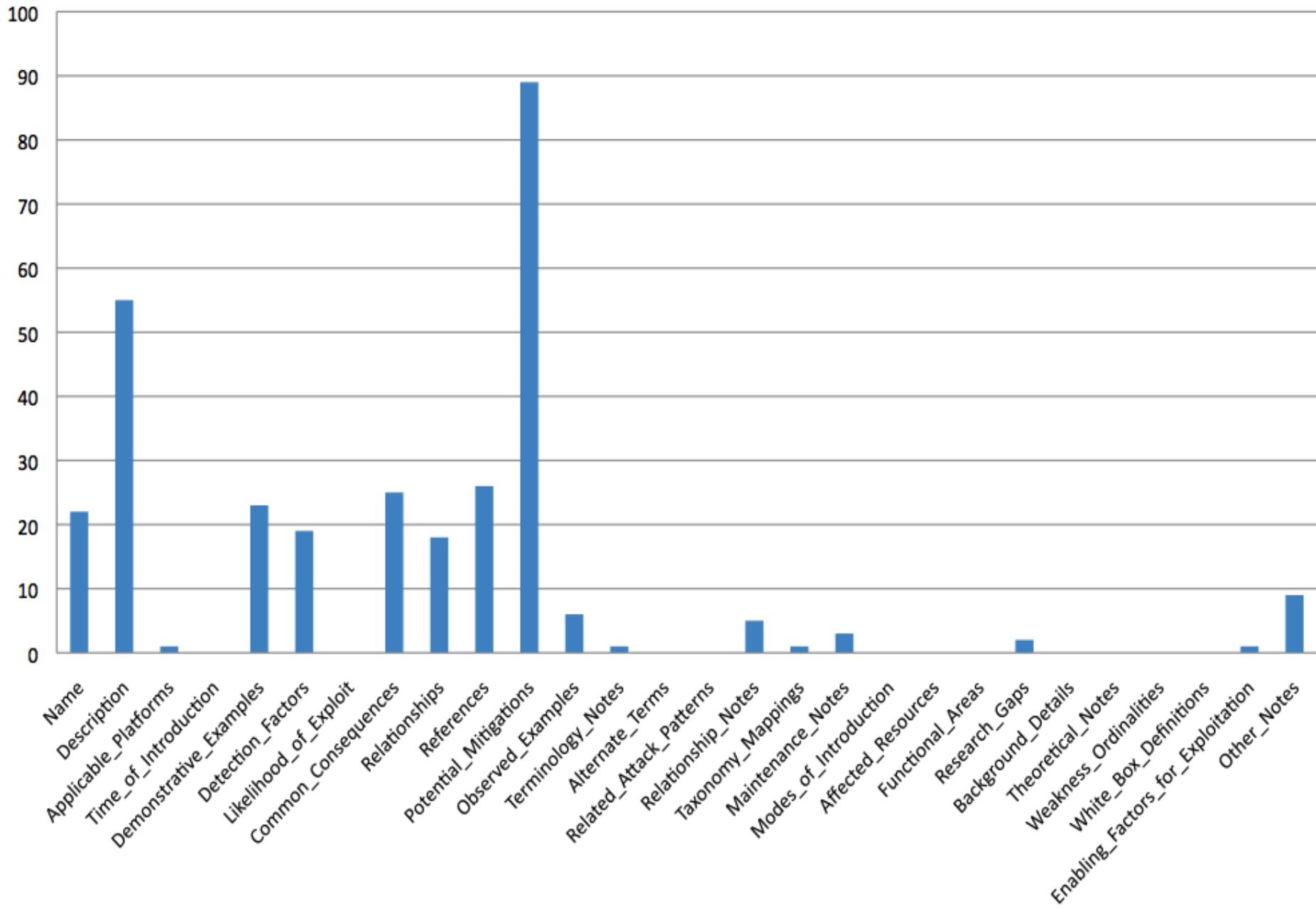
## Field Changes - 1.7 to 1.8 (16 February 2010)



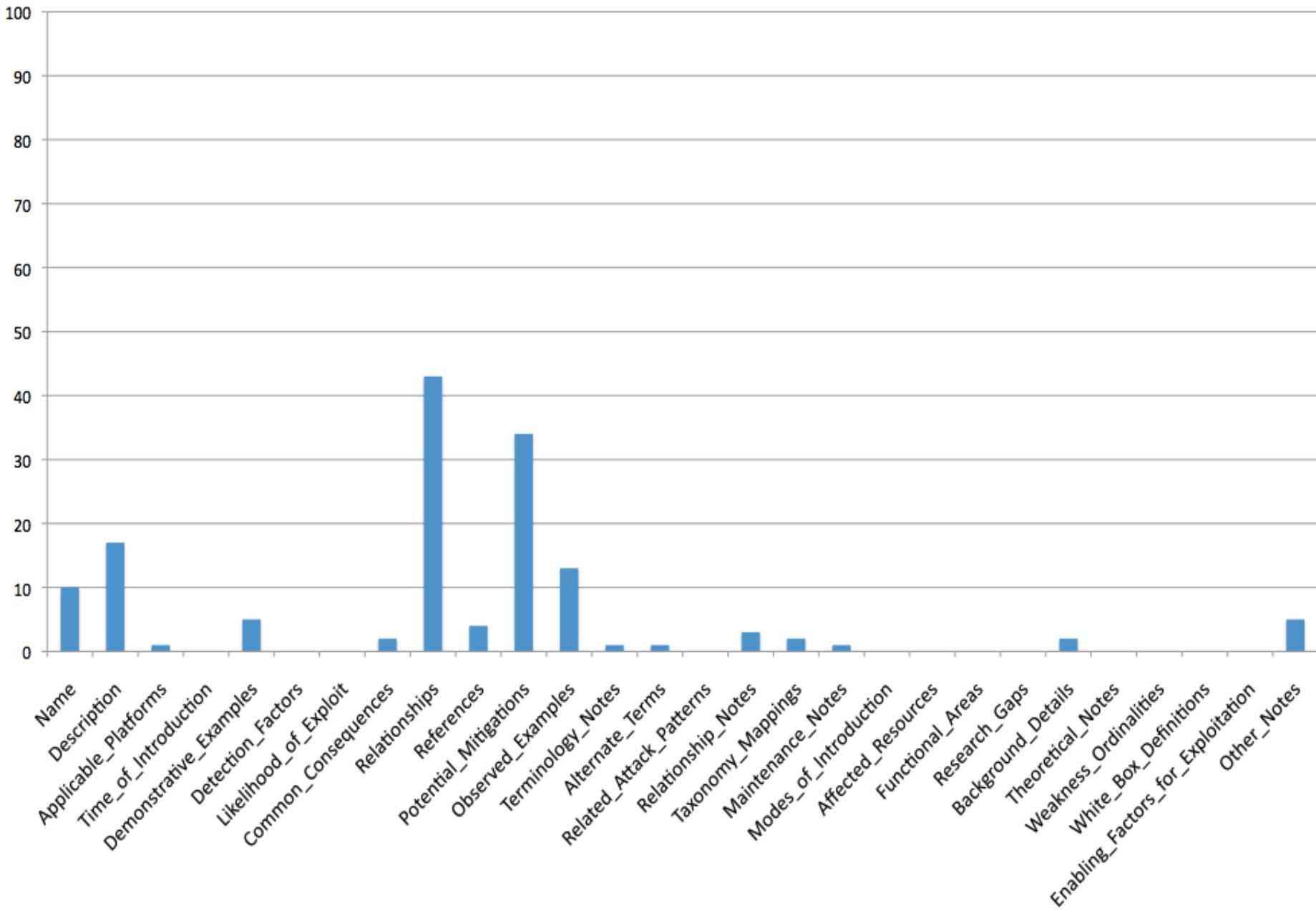
## Field Changes - 1.8 to 1.8.1 (5 April 2010)



## Field Changes - 1.8.1 to 1.9 (21 June 2010)



## Field Changes - 1.9 to 1.10 (27 September 2010)



# CWE version 1.10

## Summary of Entry Types

Type	Version 1.9	v1.10
Category	119	119
Chain	3	3
Composite	6	6
Deprecated	11	11
View	24	24
Weakness	658	665

## Nodes Added to v1.10

CWE-ID	CWE Name
<a href="#">820</a>	<b>Missing Synchronization</b>
<a href="#">821</a>	<b>Incorrect Synchronization</b>
<a href="#">822</a>	<b>Untrusted Pointer Dereference</b>
<a href="#">823</a>	<b>Use of Out-of-range Pointer Offset</b>
<a href="#">824</a>	<b>Access of Uninitialized Pointer</b>
<a href="#">825</a>	<b>Expired Pointer Dereference</b>
<a href="#">826</a>	<b>Premature Release of Resource During Expected Lifetime</b>



# CWE web site visitors by City



 [HOME](#) [EMAIL](#) [RSS 2.0](#) [ATOM 1.0](#)

## Recent Posts

[SDL Threat Modeling Tool 3.1.4 ships!](#)

[Early Days of the SDL, Part Four](#)

[Early Days of the SDL, Part Three](#)

[Early Days of the SDL, Part Two](#)

[Early Days of the SDL, Part One](#)

## Tags

Common Criteria [Crawl Walk](#)

Run Privacy [SDL](#) [SDL Pro](#)

Network Security Assurance

Security Blackhat [SDL](#) [threat modeling](#)

## News

## About Us

Adam Shostack

Bryan Sullivan

David Ladd

Jeremy Dallman

Michael Howard

Steve Lipner

## Blogroll

[BlueHat Security Briefings](#)

## SDL and the CWE/SANS Top 25

Bryan here. The security community has been buzzing since SANS and MITRE's joint announcement earlier this month of their list of the [Top 25 Most Dangerous Programming Errors](#). Now, I don't want to get into a debate in this blog about whether this new list will become the new de facto standard for analyzing security vulnerabilities (or indeed, whether it already has become the new standard). Instead, I'd like to present an overview of how the Microsoft SDL maps to the CWE/SANS list, just

May.

Michael and I have written coverage of the Top 25 and believe that the results tell 25 were developed independently from the software analysis white paper and guidance around every major item made many of the same mistakes for you to download and

Below is a summary of how see the SDL covers every one of them (race conditions and by multiple SDL requirements) and tools to prevent or detect

CWE	Title	Education?	Manual Process?	Tools?	Threat Model?
20	Improper Input Validation	Y	Y	Y	Y
116	Improper Encoding or Escaping of Output	Y	Y	Y	
89	Failure to Preserve SQL Query Structure (aka SQL Injection)	Y	Y	Y	
79	Failure to Preserve Web Page Structure (aka Cross-Site Scripting)	Y	Y	Y	
78	Failure to Preserve OS Command Structure (aka OS Command Injection)	Y		Y	
319	Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information	Y			Y
352	Cross-site Request Forgery (aka CSRF)	Y		Y	
362	Race Condition	Y			
209	Error Message Information Leak	Y	Y	Y	
119	Failure to Constrain Memory Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer	Y	Y	Y	
642	External Control of Critical State Data	Y			Y
73	External Control of File Name or Path	Y	Y	Y	
426	Untrusted Search Path	Y		Y	
94	Failure to Control Generation of Code (aka 'Code Injection')	Y	Y		
494	Download of Code Without Integrity Check				Y
404	Improper Resource Shutdown or Release	Y		Y	
665	Improper Initialization	Y		Y	
682	Incorrect Calculation	Y		Y	
285	Improper Access Control (Authorization)	Y	Y		Y
327	Use of a Broken or Risky Cryptographic Algorithm	Y	Y	Y	
259	Hard-Coded Password	Y	Y	Y	Y
732	Insecure Permission Assignment for Critical Resource	Y	Y		
330	Use of Insufficiently Random Values	Y	Y	Y	
250	Execution with Unnecessary Privileges	Y	Y		Y
602	Client-Side Enforcement of Server-Side Security	Y			Y

# CWE Outreach: A Team Sport

## May/June Issue of IEEE Security & Privacy...

**CWE-732: Insecure Permission Assignment for Critical Resource**  
I've already touched on this one many times. But review all members and ALL the critical objects you create in the OS to ensure configuration items such as Windows registry, in the case Windows Vista, and later, the changing object ACLs in the system or registry entries you make when the ACE.

**CWE-330: Use of Insufficiently Random Values**  
Identify all the random number generators in your code and determine which, if any, generate a password, certificate, or otherwise. Make sure the code generating random numbers is cryptographically sound and not a detectable pseudorandom generator. The C standard rand() function does not do cryptography.

**CWE-250: Execution with Unnecessary Privileges**

Identify all processes that run part of your solution and determine what privileges they require to operate correctly. If a process runs root (Linux, Unix, Mac OS X) or sevices (Windows), ask yourself, "Why?" Because the answer is usually valid here, the code must perform a privileged operation, but sometimes you don't know why it runs any other than, "That's the way it always was!" If the code is used to operate a high-profile system, then make sure the code runs with the lowest privilege level possible.

**CWE-94: Failure to Generate**

By convention, in the code, implement vulnerabilities to generate code that builds a strong checksum and prints it to screen. If the attacker manages to intercept the message in its way, he can reuse a modified checksum. The exploit will be unable to crack the kind of log-in to crack the user of weak, but still useful, reusing the application.

### Basic Training

parties that handle and control their banking information and privacy when using online banking. As a user, look for institutions that have taken steps to ensure that data is secure in transit. It is best to use a well-known bank and follow the secure way of banking.

**CWE-78: Failure to Preserve OS Command Structure**

Many application, particularly server applications, receive untrusted requests and use the data in them in contact with the underlying operating system. Unfortunately, this can lead to severe server compromise if the incoming data is not sanitized—again, the best defense is to check the data. Also, running the potentially vulnerable application with low privilege can help contain the damage.

**CWE-319: Cleartext Transmission of Sensitive Information**

Sensitive data must obviously be protected at rest and while on the wire. The best solution to this vulnerability is to use a well-tested technology such as SSL/TLS or IPsec. That need causes your own communication medium and cryptographic defense. This weakness is related to CWE-27 ("Use of Broken or Rely Cryptographic Algorithms"). We make sure you aren't using weak 40-bit RC4 or shared-key IPsec.

For example, in the code, implement vulnerabilities to generate code that builds a strong checksum and prints it to screen. If the attacker manages to intercept the message in its way, he can reuse a modified checksum. The exploit will be unable to crack the kind of log-in to crack the user of weak, but still useful, reusing the application.

Final testing is also effective at detecting CWE-94.

**CWE-682: Incorrect Calculation**

Many buffer overflow in C and C++ code today are actually due to incorrect buffer array-size calculations. If an attacker controls one or more of the elements in a size calculation, he or she can

### CWE-352: Cross-Site Request Forgery

Cross-site request forgery (also known as CSRF) vulnerabilities are a relatively new form of Web weaknesses caused, in part, by bad Web application design. In short, this design doesn't verify that a request comes from valid user code and instead acting maliciously on the user's behalf. Generally, the best defense is to use a unique and unpredictable key for each user. Traditionally, verifying input doesn't mitigate this type because the input is valid.

### CWE-352: Race Condition

Race conditions are timing problems that lead to unexpected behavior—for example, an application uses a filename to verify that a file exists and then uses the same filename to open the file. The problem is in the small time delay between the check and the file open, which attackers can use to change the file or delete or create it. The safest way to mitigate file-open race conditions is to open the object and then use the resulting handle for further operations. Also, consider reducing the scope of shared objects—for example, temporary files should be local to the user and not shared with multiple user accounts. Consider use of synchronization primitives ( mutexes, semaphores, critical sections) to mitigate race conditions.

**CWE-642: Untrusted Content Insertion**  
Untrusted code inserted into the content of an HTML page can cause a security breach. Unfortunately, this can lead to severe server compromise if the incoming data is not sanitized—again, the best defense is to check the data. Also, running the potentially vulnerable application with low privilege can help contain the damage.

### CWE-209: Error Message Information Leak

Error information is critical to debugging application bugs, but you must understand who can read the data. In general, you should never disclose error messages to external users. However, and assuming users must deal with generic messages such as the detailed data logged to an audit log.

### CWE-73: External Control of Filename or Path

Attackers might be able to alter the file name or path if they see the data that's used as part of path name. It's critical

to never, look for errors like "path" and "password" and make sure we have implemented password or user data in the code. You should also store this data in a secure location outside the operating system. By nature, Linux processes work on application processes to encrypt it and protect the encryption key with an appropriate generation.

### CWE-119: Failure to Constrain Memory Operations

The intended buffer usage of C and C++—or vulnerability type, has more headaches than benefits. The best way to combat this problem is to move away and C++ where it's safe and use high-level languages such as Ruby, C#, and Java. In case they don't offer this summary, for C and C++, developers should "unwind" functions to examine (for example, `strncpy`, `strncat`, `strspn`, `strcspn`) and get rid of a newer version. Visual C may break APIs in a couple and you should move to C++ compiler. Also, static source analysis can help prevent buffer overruns operating on controlled inputs such as off-by-one, type normalization, and so on. This can help reduce the chance buffer overrun is exploited.

### CWE-642: External Control of Critical System

Configuration data, info with a profile data or configuration, is required to be as important as possible.

For using the appropriate command-line (ACLO) or permission data and use of cryptographic definitions, a hashed message within code (HMAC), the case data. You can use an RSA permission data as well.

### CWE-73: External Control of Filename or Path

Attackers might be able to alter the file name or path if they see the data that's used as part of path name. It's critical

### Basic Training

Editor: Michael Howard  
Michael Howard, [michael.howard@mitre.org](mailto:michael.howard@mitre.org)

## Improving Software Security by Eliminating the CWE Top 25 Vulnerabilities

In January 2009, MITRE and SANS issued the "2009 CWE/SANS Top 25 Most Dangerous Programming Errors" to help make developers more aware of the bugs that can cause security compromises (<http://cwe.mitre.org/top25>). I was one of the many people

from industry, government, and academic who provided input to the document.

CWE, which stands for Common Weakness Enumeration, is a project sponsored by the National Cyber Security Division of the US Department of Homeland Security to classify security bugs. It assigns a unique number or weakness type such as buffer overflow or remote scripting bugs (for example, CWE-22 is "Use of a Broken or Risky Cryptographic Algorithm"). Shortly after the Top 25 list's release, Microsoft issued a document entitled, "The Microsoft SEL and the CWE/SANS Top 25," to explain how Microsoft's security processes can help prevent the worst offenders. (<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/MS09-001.mspx>)

Full disclosure: For one of the documents' authors, my purpose here isn't to disparage the Microsoft SEL. Rather, my goal is to describe some best practices that can help you eliminate the CWE Top 25 vulnerabilities in your software development environments and products. It's also important to understand that addressing the wide

range of bugs in the list doesn't imply your software is immune from all forms of attack; there are plenty more vulnerability types to worry about!

### CWE-20: Improper Input Validation

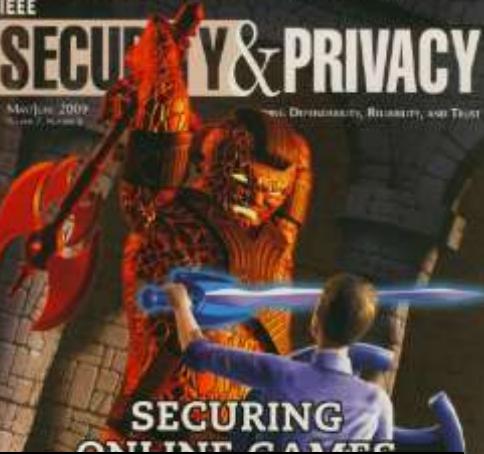
The vast majority of serious security vulnerabilities are reported each year since buffer overflows, SQL injection, and cross-site scripting bugs were (thankfully) removed. Developers simply can't ignore the string data used in validation that their input matches the input for validity. I can't stress this enough—if developers implemented this basic rule, most bugs would be eliminated. For years, however, due to terms of service, content and style, many sites bugs would go away. The core lesson here is for developers to carefully validate input and for designers to understand how they can hold their systems' protect input such that malicious users can manipulate the data.

### CWE-116: Improper Object Encoding

You could really tell

existing Web-based applications to fix once the developer understood and prevent malicious Web input like CWE-29 and CWE-23. However, the industry has seen many security bugs that could have been prevented if the developer had

READER OVER YOUR SHOULDER • DUEING WITH THE SWAG GRID



### Basic Training

68

Improving Software Security by Eliminating the CWE Top 25 Vulnerabilities  
MICHAEL HOWARD

Special thanks to Robert A. Martin of MITRE Corporation.

2009's Top 25 CVE Causes  
and Important CWEs

Handler Errors	Behavioral Problems	Channel and Path Errors	Failure to Fulfill API Contract ('API Abuse')	Security Features
Deployment of Wrong Handler	Behavioral Change in New Version or Environment	Channel Errors	Failure to Clear Heap Memory Before Release ('Heap Inspection')	Credentials Management
Missing Handler	Expected Behavior Violation	Failure to Protect Alternate Path	Call to Non-ambiguous API	• Hard-Coded Password (100)
Dangerous Handler not Disabled During Sensitive Operations		Uncontrolled Search Path Element	Use of Inherently Dangerous Function	• Uninitialized Password Change
Unparsed Raw Web Content Delivery		Unquoted Search Path or Element	Multiple Binds to the Same Port	• Missing Required Cryptographic State
Incomplete Identification of Uploaded File Variables (PHP)		Untrusted Search Path	J2EE Bad Practices: Direct Management of Connections	• Not Using a Random ID with CBC Mode
Unrestricted File Upload			Internet Check of Function Return Value	• Failure to Encrypt Sensitive Data
User Interface Errors	Initialization and Cleanup Errors	Error Handling	Often Missed Arguments and Parameters	• Circular Storage of Session Information
UI Discrepancy for Security Feature	Insecure Default Variable Initialization	Error Conditions, Return Values, Status Codes	Uncaught Exception	• Clever Manipulation of Session Information
Multiple Interpretations of UI Input	External Initialization of Trusted Variables	Failure to Use a Standardized Error Handling Mechanism	Execution with Unnecessary Privileges (139)	• Session Hijacking (100)
UI Misrepresentation of Critical Information	Non-existent or Failed Initialization	Failure to Catch All Exceptions in Servlet	Often Missed String Management	• Session Cookies in HTTPS Sessions Without 'Secure' Attribute
	Missing Initialization	Not Failing Securely (Failing Open)	J2EE Bad Practices: Direct Use of Sockets	• Unresolvable One-Way Hash
	Incomplete Cleanup	Missing Custom Error Page	Unchecked Return Value	• Inadequate Encryption Strength
	Improper Cleanup on Thrown Exception		Failure to Change Working Directory in Thread Init	• Use of Broken or Weak Cryptographic Algorithms (100)
	Improper Initialization - (886)		Reliance on DNS Lookups in a Security Decision	• Use of RSA Algorithms without OAEP
Data Handling	Pointer Issues		Failure to Follow Specification	Permissions, Privileges, and Access Controls
Numeric Errors	Modification of Assumed-Immutable Data (NAI)		Failure to Provide Specified Functionality	• Access Control Authorizations Issues (104)
- Use of Inexact Byte Ordering	Improper Input Validation - (203)			• Permission Issues
- Unchecked Array Indexing		Return of Pointer Value Outside of Expected Range		• Incorrect Default Permissions
- Incorrect Conversion between Number Types		Use of size off on a Pointer Type		• Incorrect Inherited Permissions
- Unsigned Sign Extension		Incorrect Pointer Scaling		• Incorrect Predefined Assigned Permissions
- Signed to Unsigned Conversion Error		Use of Pointer Subtraction to Determine Size		• Incorrect Execution of Assigned Permissions or Policies
- Unsigned to Signed Conversion Error		Assignment of a Fixed Address to a Pointer		• Improper Handing of Inherited Permissions
- Numeric Truncation Error		Attempt to Access Child of a Non-structure Pointer		• Improper Preservation of Permissions
- Incorrect Calculation - (488)				• Expired Usage Account Method
- Incorrect Calculation of Buffer Size				• Incorrect Permissions Assigned for Critical Resources (732)
- Integer Overflow or Wraparound				• Permission Race Conditions During Resource Copy
- Integer Underflow (Wrap or Wraparound)				
- Off-by-one Error				• Privilege Sandbox Issues
- Divide by Zero				• Improper Ownership Management
Representation Errors				• Incorrect User Management
- Cleaning, Generalization, and Comparison Errors				
- Reference on Data Wherever Layout				• Password in Configuration File
Information Management Errors				• Insufficient Compartmentalization
Information Leak (Information Disclosure)				• Reliance on a Single Factor in a Security Decision
- Information Leak through Send Data				• Insufficient Psychological Acceptability
- Privacy Leak through Data Downgrade				• Reliance on Security through Obscurity
- Discarding Information Leaks				• Protection Mechanism Failure
- Error Message Information Leak - (239)				• Insufficient Logging
- Cross-Boundary Cleaning Information Leak				• Reliance on Cookies without Validation and Integrity Checking in a Security Decision
- Inherited Information Leak				
- Process Environment Information Leak				
- Information Leak through Output Information				
- Sensitive Information Disclosed before Release				
- Information Loss of System Data				
- Information Loss through Caching				
- Information Leak through Environmental Variables				
- File and Directory Information Leaks				
- Information Leak through Query String in GET Request				
- Information Leak through inclusion of Private Data				
- Information Loss on Deletion				
- Containerless Errors (Container-Based)				
Improper Access of Indirectable Resource (Range Error)				
Type Errors				
Improper Escaping or Escaping of Output - (174)				
String Errors				
Data Structure Issues				
Improper Handling of Syntactically Invalid Structure				

## A Human Capital Crisis in Cybersecurity

### Technical Proficiency Matters

A White Paper of the  
CSIS Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency

COCHAIRS  
Representative James R. Langevin  
Representative Michael T. McCaul  
Scott Charney  
Lt. General Harry Raduege,  
USAF (ret.)

based on a body of knowledge that represents the complete set of concepts, terms and activities that make up a professional domain. And absent such a body of knowledge there is little basis for supporting a certification program. Indeed it would be dangerous and misleading.

A complete body of knowledge covering the entire field of software engineering may be years away. However, the body of knowledge needed by professionals to create software free of common and critical security flaws has been developed, vetted widely and kept up to date. That is the foundation for a certification program in software assurance that can gain wide adoption. It was created in late 2008 by a consortium of national experts, sponsored by DHS and NSA, and was updated in late 2009. It contains ranked lists of the most common errors, explanations of why the errors are dangerous, examples of those errors in multiple languages, and ways of eliminating those errors. It can be found at <http://cwe.mitre.org/top25>.

Any programmer who writes code without being aware of those problems and is not capable of writing code free of those errors is a threat to his or her employers and to others who use computers connected to systems running his or her software.

A complete body of knowledge covering the entire field of software engineering may be years away. However, the body of knowledge needed by professionals to create software free of common and critical security flaws has been developed, vetted widely and kept up to date. That is the foundation for a certification program in software assurance that can gain wide adoption. It was created in late 2008 by a consortium of national experts, sponsored by DHS and NSA, and was updated in late 2009. It contains ranked lists of the most common errors, explanations of why the errors are dangerous, examples of those errors in multiple languages, and ways of eliminating those errors. It can be found at <http://cwe.mitre.org/top25>.

Any programmer who writes code without being aware of those problems and is not capable of writing code free of those errors is a threat to his or her employers and to others who use computers connected to systems running his or her software.



# Idaho National Labs SCADA Report

NSTB Assessments  
Summary Report:  
Common Industrial Control  
System Cyber Security  
Weaknesses

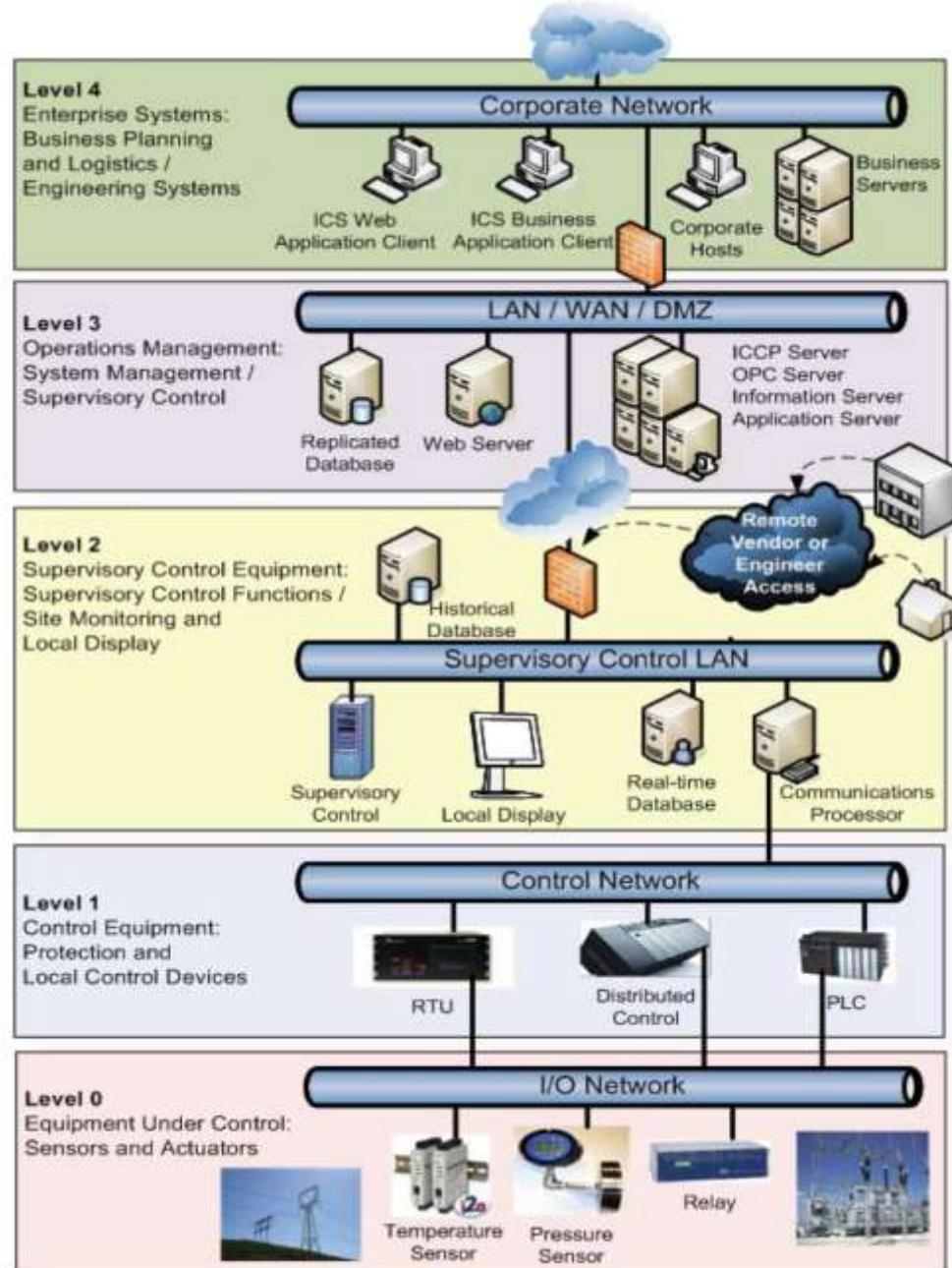
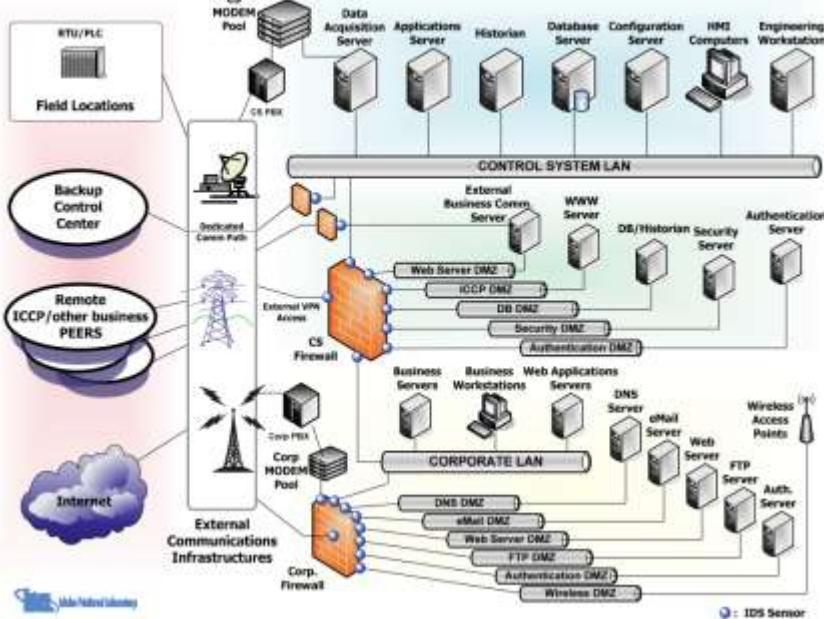
May 2010

**NSTB**

National SCADA Test Bed  
Ensuring control system security in the energy sector



## SECURE CONTROL SYSTEM/ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE



**Table 27. Most common programming errors found in ICS code.**

<b>Weakness Classification</b>	<b>Vulnerability Type</b>
CWE-19: Data Handling	CWE-228: Improper Handling of Syntactically Invalid Structure CWE-229: Improper Handling of Values CWE-230: Improper Handling of Missing Values CWE-20: Improper Input Validation CWE-116: Improper Encoding or Escaping of Output CWE-195: Signed to Unsigned Conversion Error CWE-198: Use of Incorrect Byte Ordering
CWE-119: Failure to Constrain Operations within the Bounds of a Memory Buffer	CWE-120: Buffer Copy without Checking Size of Input (“Classic Buffer Overflow”) CWE-121: Stack-based Buffer Overflow CWE-122: Heap-based Buffer Overflow CWE-125: Out-of-bounds Read CWE-129: Improper Validation of Array Index CWE-131: Incorrect Calculation of Buffer Size CWE-170: Improper Null Termination CWE-190: Integer Overflow or Wraparound CWE-680: Integer Overflow to Buffer Overflow
CWE-398: Indicator of Poor Code Quality	CWE-454: External Initialization of Trusted Variables or Data Stores CWE-456: Missing Initialization CWE-457: Use of Uninitialized Variable CWE-476: NULL Pointer Dereference CWE-400: Uncontrolled Resource Consumption (“Resource Exhaustion”) CWE-252: Unchecked Return Value CWE-690: Unchecked Return Value to NULL Pointer Dereference CWE-772: Missing Release of Resource after Effective Lifetime
CWE-442: Web Problems	CWE-22: Improper Limitation of a Pathname to a Restricted Directory (“Path Traversal”) CWE-79: Failure to Preserve Web Page Structure (“Cross-site Scripting”) CWE-89: Failure to Preserve SQL Query Structure (“SQL Injection”)
CWE-703: Failure to Handle Exceptional Conditions	CWE-431: Missing Handler CWE-248: Uncaught Exception CWE-755: Improper Handling of Exceptional Conditions CWE-390: Detection of Error Condition Without Action

# Linkage with Fundamental Changes in Enterprise Security Initiatives

## Twenty Critical Controls for Effective Cyber Defense Guidelines

What the 20 CSC Critics say...

### 20 Critical Security Controls - Version 2.0

- 20 Critical Security Controls - Introduction (Version 2.0)
- Critical Control 1: Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Access
- Critical Control 2: Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Change
- Critical Control 3: Secure Configurations for Hardware and Software on Fixed Platforms
- Critical Control 4: Secure Configurations for Network Devices and Virtual Machines
- Critical Control 5: Boundary Defense
- Critical Control 6: Maintenance, Monitoring, and Analysis of Assets
- Critical Control 7: Application Software Security
- Critical Control 8: Controlled Use of Administrative Privileges
- Critical Control 9: Controlled Access Based on Need to Know
- Critical Control 10: Continuous Monitoring for Malicious Activity
- Critical Control 11: Recovery from Disasters
- Critical Control 12: Protection of Data
- Critical Control 13: Protection of Assets
- Critical Control 14: Protection of Information
- Critical Control 15: Protection of People
- Critical Control 16: Protection of Infrastructure
- Critical Control 17: Protection of Systems
- Critical Control 18: Protection of Networks
- Critical Control 19: Protection of Applications
- Critical Control 20: Protection of Data

### Procedures and tools for implementing the controls

Source code testing tools, web application security scanning tools, and object code testing tools have proven useful in securing application software, along with manual application security penetration testing by testers who have extensive programming knowledge as well as application penetration testing expertise. The Common Weakness Enumeration ([CWE](#)) initiative is utilized by many such tools to identify the weaknesses that they find. Organizations can also use CWE to determine which types of weaknesses they are most interested in addressing and removing. A broad community effort to identify the “[Top 25 Most Dangerous Programming Errors](#)” is also available as a minimum set of important issues to investigate and address during the application development process. When evaluating the effectiveness of testing for these weaknesses, the Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification ([CAPEC](#)) can be used to organize and record the breadth of the testing for the CWEs as well as a way for testers to think like attackers in their development of test cases.

## CAG: Critical Control 7: Application Software Security

[<< previous control](#)

Consensus Audit Guidelines

[next control >>](#)

### How do attackers exploit the lack of this control?

Attacks against vulnerabilities in web-based and other application software have been a top priority for criminal organizations in recent years. Application software that does not properly check the size of user input, fails to sanitize user input by filtering out unneeded but potentially malicious character sequences, or does not initialize and clear variables properly could be vulnerable to remote compromise. Attackers can inject specific exploits, including buffer overflows, SQL injection attacks, and cross-site scripting code to gain control over vulnerable machines. In one attack in 2008, more than 1 million web servers were exploited and turned into infection engines for visitors to those sites using SQL injection. During that attack, trusted websites from state governments and other organizations compromised by attackers were used to infect hundreds of thousands of b

## CWE and CAPEC included in Control 7 of the “Twenty Critical Controls for Effective Cyber Defense: Consensus Audit Guidelines”





<b>ISO</b>	<b>IEC</b>
<b>ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 Nxxxx</b>	
ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27/WG x Nxxxxx	
REPLACES: N	
<b>ISO/IEC JTC 27</b> Information technology - Security techniques Secretariat: DIN, Germany	
DOC TYPE:	ISO/NW Proposal for a technical report (TR)
TITLE:	National Body New Work Item Proposal on "Secure software development and evaluation under ISO/IEC 15408 and ISO/IEC 18405"
SOURCE:	PCIC/SC21, National Body of (US)
DATE:	2009-09-30
PROJECT:	15488 and 18405
STATUS:	This document is circulated for consideration at the forthcoming meeting of SC 27/WG 3 to be held in Redmond (WA, USA) on 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2009.
ACTION ID:	ACT
DUE DATE:	
DISTRIBUTION:	P., O- and L-Mantens, W. Fury, SC 27 Chairman M. De Soete, SC 27 Vice-Chair E. J. Humphreys, K. Naemura, M. Barlow, M.-C. Kang, K. Ranneberg, WG-Conveners
MEDIUM:	Liveline-server
NO. OF PAGES:	xx

- ## Common Criteria v4 CCDB
- TOE to leverage CAPEC & CWE
  - Also investigating how to leverage ISO/IEC 15026

- ## NIAP Evaluation Scheme
- Above plus
  - Also investigating how to leverage SCAP

New Work Item Proposal	
NP submitting	
<b>PROPOSAL FOR A NEW WORK ITEM</b>	
Date of presentation of proposal: YYYY-MM-DD	Proposer: ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC27
Secretariat: National Body	ISO/IEC JTC 1 N XXXX ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 N
A proposal for a new work item shall be submitted to the secretariat of the ISO/IEC joint technical committee concerned with a copy to the ISO Central Secretariat.	
Presentation of the proposal	
<b>Title</b> Secure software development and evaluation under ISO/IEC 15408 and ISO/IEC 18405 <b>Scope</b> In the case where a target of evaluation (TOE) being evaluated, under ISO/IEC 15408 and ISO/IEC 18405, includes specific software portions, the TOE developer may optionally present the developer's technical rationale for mitigating software common attack patterns and related weaknesses as described in the latest revision of the Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification (CAPEC) available from <a href="http://capec.mitre.org">http://capec.mitre.org</a> . The developer's technical rationale is expected to include a range of mitigation techniques, from architectural properties to design features, coding techniques, use of tools or other means. This Technical Report (TR) provides guidance for the developer and the evaluator on how to use the CAPEC as a technical reference point during the TOE development life cycle, and in an evaluation of the TOE secure software under ISO/IEC 15408 and 18405, by addressing: a) A refinement of the IS 15408 Attack Potential calculation table for software, taking into account the entries contained in the CAPEC and their characterization. b) How the information for mitigating software common attack patterns and related weaknesses is used in an IS 15408 evaluation, in particular providing guidance on how to determine which attack patterns and weaknesses are applicable to the TOE, taking into consideration of: 1. the TOE technology; 2. the TOE security problem definition; 3. the interfaces the TOE exports that can be used by potential attackers; 4. the Attack Potential that the TOE needs to provide resistance for. c) How the information provided by the developer for mitigating software common attack patterns and related weaknesses is used in the evaluation of the TOE design and the development of test cases. d) How the CAPEC and related Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) taxonomies are used by the evaluator, who needs to consider all the applicable attack patterns and be able to exploit specific related software weaknesses while performing the subsequent vulnerability analysis (AVA_VAN) activities on the TOE. e) How incomplete entries from the CAPEC are resolved during an IS 15408 evaluation. f) How the evaluator's attack and weakness analysis of the TOE incorporates other attacks and weaknesses not yet documented in the CAPEC. The TR also investigates specific elements from the ISO/IEC 15026 (and its revision) are applicable to the guidelines being developed in the TR within the context of IS 15408 and 18405.	



# Questions?

[ramartin@mitre.org](mailto:ramartin@mitre.org)